

How an attack on a march led to rebellion >>Pages 14&15

Derry in revolt

1968

Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association
A CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH
WILL BE HELD IN DERRY
ON SATURDAY 5TH OCT

How cost-cutting hit safety measures designed to save lives >>Page 7

Indonesian tsunami: an avoidable tragedy



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DIVIDED TORIES' NEW ATTACK

STOP THE WAR ON MIGRANTS



BORIS JOHNSON
CLAIMED EMPLOYMENT
LEADERSHIP CONTENDER
ACTUAL EMPLOYMENT
RACIST HOOLIGAN



THERESA MAY
CLAIMED EMPLOYMENT
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
ACTUAL EMPLOYMENT
SERVING THE RICH
ESTIMATED DEPARTURE
ASAP



SAJID JAVID
CLAIMED EMPLOYMENT
HOME SECRETARY
ACTUAL EMPLOYMENT
RACISM ENABLER

SEND UNSKILLED TORY WASTERS PACKING

HEALTH

Blood money—victims speak out on a scandal

VICTIMS ARE calling for truth and justice as an inquiry into the Infected Blood Scandal begins.

Some 2,800 people in Britain have died after being given tainted blood or blood products. Glenn is one of them. "We must get to the truth," he said. "No stone must be left unturned."

>>Pages 10&11

TORY CONFERENCE



Car-crash Tories want more cuts and racism

THE TORIES have unveiled a new war on migrants in a desperate bid to save their car-crash government.

Home secretary Sajid Javid wants to make it harder for some migrants to come to Britain.

Meanwhile chancellor Philip Hammond (pictured) pledged more austerity.

>>Pages 4&5

WALKOUT

Staff at London pub stage wildcat strike over hours

WORKERS AT a south London pub were on their third day of a wildcat strike as Socialist Worker went to press.

They want an end to zero hours contracts, the reinstatement of four workers and union recognition.

They've won much support.

>>Page 3



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Wasn't expecting that reaction but that's okay'

President Donald Trump gets the UN general assembly laughing after boasting about his achievements since becoming president

'He wrote me beautiful letters and they're great letters. We fell in love'

President Donald Trump on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

'Chequers is a toothache. Not a crisis toothache'

Former Brexit secretary David Davis

'Chequers may not even be a dying duck, it may be slightly more Count Dracula'

Jacob Rees-Mogg on his vision of the Chequers proposals

'I'm getting death threats in French'

BBC Radio Norfolk broadcaster Nick Conrad who has been receiving menacing messages after being mistaken for a French rapper of the same name who has a song called 'Pendez Les Blancs' or 'Hang The Whites'



Royal relative is slammed for making cash from sick sales

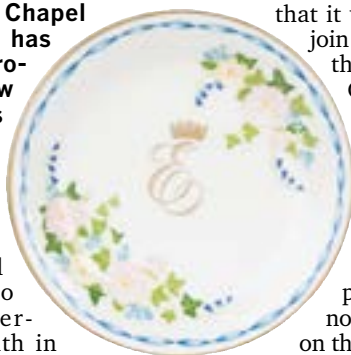
SHE HAS St George's Chapel for the ceremony. She has the carriage for the procession afterwards. Now Princess Eugenie has that other essential prerequisite for a royal wedding—the official range of commemorative china.

Dedicated royal fans—and they have to be dedicated considering that Eugenie is ninth in line to the throne—can buy a range of pieces to mark her forthcoming wedding to Jack Brooksbank on 12 October.

Produced by the Royal Collection Trust, the range includes a coaster costing £20 (pictured), a miniature tea cup and saucer at £25, a pillbox for £29 and a tankard at £39.

The sceptical might question who would buy such mementoes for a relatively minor royal. But the answer could be more people than one might think.

When Buckingham Palace announced



that it would have a draw to join the celebrations within the grounds of Windsor Castle, 100,000 people applied.

Despite such enthusiasm, controversy over the wedding has continued.

More than 18,000 people have signed a petition demanding that no public money be spent on the imminent nuptials.

IN OTHER royal news The Duchess of Cambridge's mum Carole has been blasted for flogging a Halloween costume of a princess splattered in blood.

Those most offended included the Daily Star, The Sun and Daily Mail newspapers.

The Star made the case clear. "It has caused huge offence because of a possible gruesome link to Princess Di, who was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997," it explained.

Diana's close friend and psychic Simone Simmons said, "This is sicker than sick."

"I hope people boycott this site. There are plenty of other places for better Halloween costumes."

"This is really scraping the barrel. It's twisted and warped."

Ingrid Seward, who is editor in chief of Majesty magazine and also a royal author, added, "This is in very poor taste."

One apparent royal fan (or subeditor padding the copy) added, "It's outrageous for Carole to sell a costume like that with the word 'princess' in the title. What was she thinking?"

The outfit called The Zombie Sleeping Princess was on sale for £10.99.

REMEMBER THE Lib Dems? They're trying to boost funds and keep activists on message with a swear box at party HQ. Anyone who says "second referendum" instead of "people's vote" has to pay a fine. At the BBC journalists have been instructed not to say second referendum because the first one was in 1975 and the audience would be confused.

Lib Dem leader Vince Cable

A TORY conference app blunder exposed Cabinet ministers' personal details and phone numbers. It allowed anyone downloading it to log in and edit them.

Boris Johnson's profile image was changed to pornography and his title changed to "dickhead".

The Treasury minister and the tax avoiders

A TREASURY minister has been accused of a conflict of interest over links to tax-avoider Amazon.

Mel Stride has a controlling stake in Venture Marketing Group which provides "exhibition, publication and online services" according to the register of MPs' interests.

Current or previous clients include tax avoiding Amazon, banks HSBC and Lloyds, and City fat cats JP Morgan.

All have what could be described as an interest in tax policy, which is Stride's responsibility as Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Rules state ministers should avoid conflicts or perceived conflicts of

interest. The Treasury says Stride's role includes "strategic oversight of the tax system including direct, indirect, business, property and personal taxation".

Documents filed with Companies House show he pocketed £59,000 from Venture Marketing last year. And in 2017 "the company was under control of the major shareholder MJ Stride".

Global demand for British posho schools

GROWING numbers of private schools are opening branches abroad, 20 years after Harrow started the trend by setting up in Bangkok.

Some 73 have opened at least one sister school abroad or have a partnership with an international school, and more are following suit.

Harrow now has five sister schools and Dulwich College has ten. Eighteen British independent schools are due to open abroad in the next two years, mainly in China but also in Singapore, Egypt, Oman and India.

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses'

Posh kids at school

Conference (HMC), which represents 250 posho fee-charging schools, says that the rate of growth is higher than ever.

Chair of HMC Shaun Fenton said, "British independent education is a force for good, both at home and abroad."

And due to them having charitable status, it's a profitable, tax-free force at that.

Drunk as a subsidised Lord

LAVISH dining and watering holes in the House of Lords receive thousands of pounds every day in subsidies.

Eight bars and restaurants at Westminster got £1.3 million last year for meals and drinks.

The facilities clocked up a £6.6 million bill over the past five years—around £8,000 for each sitting day.

The Peers' Dining Room spent £801,000 more than it collected for 2017-18, figures from the House of Lords administration committee show. The Barry Room lost £260,000 and the River Restaurant was in the red by £442,000.

Firms fleece customers if they are loyal

CITIZENS Advice said that loyalty was costing us more than £4 billion a year. The charity has lodged a complaint with the Competition and Markets Authority after finding that households pay almost £900 a year too much on average across the mobile phone, broadband, insurance, savings, and mortgage markets.

Citizens Advice said that old and vulnerable customers were most likely to be overcharged for staying loyal.

One couple in their 90s were paying nearly £1,000 a year too much on their home insurance.

Prosecuted for being a slave

THE POLICE and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) prosecuted a Vietnamese teenager whose case was dismissed when a judge said that he was probably the victim of slavery.

The boy now faces deportation.

Over 1,100 Vietnamese children suspected of having been smuggled into Britain have been arrested in the last five years.

The CPS has no data on how many were prosecuted or convicted.

The boy had been accused of being involved in the production of cannabis.

Judge Robert Trevor-Jones dismissed the case against the boy, who did not speak English.

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Staff at London pub stage wildcat strike over hours

by NICK CLARK

WORKERS AT a south London pub were on their third day of a wildcat strike in a battle over zero hours contracts as Socialist Worker went to press.

Members of the Bfawu union at the Ivy House pub in Southwark began the unofficial strike on Sunday morning.

They are demanding an end to zero hours contracts, the reinstatement of four workers and recognition of their union.

Their action forced bosses to back down over all three demands—but strikers won't go back until they're happy with the bosses' offer.

Workers struck after four workers were told without explanation that they would get no more hours.

By the end of Sunday strikers had made bosses agree to reinstate the four, commit to ending zero hours contracts and recognise Bfawu.

One of the four told Socialist Worker on Sunday, "Everyone who has come here today has been incredible. There's been so much support from local people and the union."

The action comes as workers at two Wetherspoon pubs in Brighton are set to strike on Thursday for £10 an hour and recognition of Bfawu.

Branches

They will be joined by workers at branches of McDonald's and TGI Fridays restaurants.

Solidarity with the four was key to the strikers' success. Kitchen staff joined strikers on the picket line—and the action shut the pub.

One striker told Socialist Worker, "If this had happened to me I would want people to stand by me."

"We've had people who've been working here less than a month who said they're willing to lose their jobs for people they've barely just met."



WORKERS PICKETING during an unofficial strike on Sunday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

BACK STORY

Workers began an unofficial strike at the Ivy House pub on Sunday

●Solidarity from kitchen staff meant the south London pub was closed on one of its busiest days

●Bfawu union members walked out after management effectively sacked four workers

●Their action forced management to make concessions on all of their demands in just one day

●But strikers are refusing to return to work until they are happy with the bosses' offer

They added, "You need to know that you can pay your next month's rent. Those four people suddenly can't—that gives me no confidence in my own situation."

The pub boasts of being London's "first cooperatively owned pub".

It is run by a management committee but owned by some 371 community shareholders, most of them ordinary people from the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Many came to support the strike.

Strikers were in and out of talks with committee members all day. They never agreed to anything without first pausing talks to debate and vote on what to do next in street

meetings outside the pub.

At the end of the day visibly shaken committee members finally agreed to put an offer in writing.

It said they "have always recognised unions," and that "in principle we are committed to migrating all 'zero hours' workers to fixed hours contracts".

It also said, "The four members of staff who had their hours reduced to zero will be reinstated."

Workers' bold action has brought them close to victory—staying out on strike could see them win.

Donate to the strike fund
bit.ly/IvyHousefund. Follow the strikers on Twitter at @ivyhouseunion

IN BRIEF

Work leaves us exhausted

BRITISH WORKERS are under more pressure at work than at any time in the past 25 years.

The Skills and Employment Survey found people are working harder and faster.

The number of jobs requiring very high speed work has nearly doubled since 1992.

Some 47 percent of men and 55 percent of women said they "always" or "often" went home exhausted.

Patients suffer cops' stun guns

POLICE HAVE drawn, aimed or fired a stun gun at patients in mental distress almost 100 times in just over a year.

Cops used the guns in hospitals and other mental health facilities 96 times between 1 April 2017 and August this year.

The real figure will be higher. Only 28 police forces—about half the total—provided figures after a Freedom of Information request.

Black NHS staff paid much less

SHOCKING NEW statistics have revealed the scale of institutional racism within the health service.

Black nurses are paid on average £2,700 a year less than their white colleagues, according to research by NHS Digital. And black doctors are paid on average nearly £10,000 a year less than white doctors.

Pay inequality is made worse by sexism.

Longer online at
bit.ly/NHSinequality

Socialist Worker Appeal to raise £125,000

Socialist Worker is the voice of people fighting for a better world. It dispels the racist scapegoating and anti-working class rhetoric of the mainstream press.

We publish stories of the strikes, protests and pickets that can beat back the bosses and bigots. We are asking everyone who enjoys Socialist Worker to donate as much as they can and help fund the resistance.

I SUPPORT THE APPEAL BECAUSE...

Socialist Worker provides the context I need to form an informed opinion, telling the unspoken story behind mainstream headlines.

Whether it's cuts, academies, the NHS or

international affairs, I find that Socialist Worker is on the right side of reason.

Kevin White
Campaigner against academies in Newham



Photo: Tim Dannel

£125,000

£100,000

£75,000

Total so far
£54,149

£25,000

To donate go to socialistworker.co.uk/appeal

Call 020 7840 5620 or send a cheque, payable to 'SW Appeal' to PO Box 74955, London E16 9EJ

IN THIS WEEK

2000

Milosevic resigns amid big protests

SLOBODAN Milosevic was forced to resign as president of Yugoslavia on 7 October 2000.

It followed mass protests and strikes over allegations of vote-rigging.

His resignation led to celebrations in the street.



Tories plot fresh racist clampdown on migrants

Tory divisions set tone for conference, but they united to bash migrants, writes **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

THE TORIES have unveiled a new war on migrants in a desperate bid to save their car-crash government.

Theresa May pledged to push through a racist clampdown on European Union (EU) migrants on Monday night.

She said the new immigration rules after a Tory Brexit would “end freedom of movement once and for all”.

Her plans would make it harder for migrants without degrees—branded as “lower-skilled”—to come to Britain.

And home secretary Sajid Javid warned migrants who manage to come, “We expect them to live by our British values.”

Talk of “British values” is part of a Tory attempt to paint migrants and Muslims as “the other” who refuse to integrate.

And what “values” do the Tories represent? Inequality, greed, class rule and racism.

The wage-slashing, NHS-destroying Tories disgracefully tried to dress up the immigration clampdown as an attempt to protect working class people's living standards.

Javid claimed that unskilled migrants “must have some kind of negative impact on wages growth in Britain”.



The Tory party's bright young things

Yet the Migration Advisory Committee report that their proposals are based on dispels that racist myth. It made clear that “immigration is not a major determinant of wage growth” and found “little evidence” that EU migration had any “substantial impact” on wages.

It is Tory austerity and bosses who are responsible for low wages and a race to the bottom in working conditions.

And chancellor Philip Hammond said he would stick with austerity in the budget this autumn.

Scapegoating

That's why they want to divide workers by scapegoating migrants.

The real aim of May's immigration proposals is to push the idea that there are “good migrants” and “bad migrants”.

The official definition of

SEND IN the nasty, racist clowns—May and her advisers descend on the bored masses at Tory conference

“lower-skilled” means NHS support staff who keep the health service running wouldn't be able to come.

Three quarters of EU workers in Britain wouldn't be eligible to come under the new rules, according to the Institute for Public Policy Research.

The Tories have the gall to call these workers lower-skilled when their own lack of talent was on full display this week.

The whole conference was marked by deep divisions and more leadership in-fighting over Brexit.

Before it had even begun former foreign secretary Boris Johnson had published his own Brexit plan

as an alternative to Theresa May's “Chequers deal”.

Foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt then compared Brexit negotiations to fighting the Soviet Union in a bid to win over right wing Brexiteer backbenchers.

These include vile reactionary Jacob Rees-Moggs, who called Libya the “People's Republic of Jam Jar” in a racist slur.

Clampdown

The Tory leadership hopes to unite the warring wings around slurs against Jeremy Corbyn and a racist clampdown.

Discriminating against one group

of migrants opens the door to discriminating against all migrants and stokes racist division among working class people.

This makes it easier for the Tories to attack us—and harder for us to fight back against austerity.

May's announcement requires a fight to defend all migrants.

And it will take more protests and strikes now—not waiting for a Labour government—to end the whole regime of Tory austerity and racism.

On other pages...

Nazi Tommy Robinson's goons to march >>Page 20



Home care workers lead the protest

Protesters demand Tories out

CHANTS of “Tory scum, get out of Brum” rang out in Birmingham on Saturday as over 1,200 people joined a march ahead of the Tory party conference.

Organised by Midlands TUC union federation and the People's Assembly, the demonstration brought together campaigners from across the region.

People were angry that workers are still suffering austerity ten years after the bank bailouts.

Birmingham home care workers led the demonstration through the city centre.

Mick Cash, RMT union general secretary, promised to call strikes against a pay cap. And NEU joint general secretary Kevin

Courtney said there would be “significant industrial action” unless the Tories funded pay rises for teachers.

The Tories will try desperately to cling on to office. And every day they stay sees more attacks on working class people and the further implementation of racist policies.

It will take more of a fight to boot them out.

Deceit over Grenfell Tower

ONE ANNOUNCEMENT to come out of the Tory conference was that flammable materials on the outside of buildings—such as those used at Grenfell Tower—are to be banned.

But behind the headline is more foot-dragging.

The policy will only apply to buildings being built now, and those yet to be built. It will not apply to those which have already been built.

That means there is little legal pressure on landlords and building owners to strip off dangerous materials from buildings.

A statement from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said, “We're remediating all social residential buildings with cladding through a £400 million fund”.

That is not enough to strip the cladding off all social blocks in Britain.

And safety is even less certain for people living in private blocks.

The ministry's statement said it is “putting huge pressure on private owners” to take cladding off buildings.

The statement did not say what form this pressure takes.

Private block owners will fight tooth and nail to avoid the cost of removal unless they are forced to do it.

At a conference earlier this year a boss of insulation producer Kingspan argued against an outright ban, saying the cost would be “considerable”.

The Tories don't want to upset their mates in the construction industry.

McVey's lies over benefit budget intended to divide

WORK AND pensions secretary Esther McVey disgracefully branded talk of Tory benefit cuts as “fake news”.

She claimed the Tories “have never spent more on those with disabilities”.

“If you were to believe everything you heard from Labour or read on social media you'd think we were somehow letting down the most vulnerable in society—especially disabled people,” she added.

Shrunk

Her comments came just after new research showed that benefits for the poorest have shrunk by nearly 25 percent—£47 billion—under the Tories.

The House of Commons research

highlighted how much disability benefits have been hit in particular.

Personal Independence Payments and Employment and Support Allowance have been slashed by 10 percent—£5 billion—since 2010.

The Tories have slashed £4.6 billion from tax credits, £3.6 billion from universal credit, £3.4 billion from child benefit and £2.3 billion from housing benefit.

Their war on disabled people and benefit claimants has devastated people's lives.

It was another attempt to divide working class people between “workers and shirkers”—

when the real shirkers are the bankers and bosses.



Hated DWP boss Esther McVey

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

DON'T GIVE IN TO MYTHS ABOUT ASYLUM SEEKERS

ATORY DEAL has banned asylum seekers from being housed in the north east of England following far right protests.

The agreement, between the Home Office and local authorities, shows where accepting racist arguments can lead.

The North East Migration Partnership, which includes local authorities, last year told the Home Office of “collective concerns of local authorities” over asylum dispersal.

It referred to “social cohesion” issues.

Labour MP for Sunderland Central, Julie Elliott, has jumped on the bandwagon. Earlier this year she asked the Home Office to stop sending asylum seekers to the area due to “tensions”.

But these “tensions” have been whipped up by far right, racist and fascist groups.

Lawyer Sheroy Zaq represents an asylum seeker who was detained for six months longer than necessary because of the policy.

“The existence of this agreement must be seen as the home secretary bowing down to the repugnant, Islamophobic

demands of the far right,” he said.

The Justice for the Women and Children group has organised protests alongside the far right Democratic Football Lads Alliance.

They focus on allegations that asylum seekers have sexually assaulted people in the area.

All allegations of assault or abuse must be taken seriously.

But claiming that Muslim men or refugees pose a greater threat isn't taking the issue seriously—it's distorting the facts for racist ends.

Most people who suffer sexual assault or rape aren't attacked by refugees or other “strangers”.

Government figures show that around 90 percent of people who are raped know their attacker.



Racists and fascists often fake concern about abuse for their own ends

RICH ARE REAL LOOTERS

PEOPLE IN flood-hit towns and cities in Indonesia have resorted to taking supplies from shops without paying.

By Tuesday morning cops had already arrested 45 people in Palu and were firing live rounds into the crowds.

Funding cuts to the tsunami early warning system left people defenceless.

And now people have been let down a second time—by authorities who failed to provide essential services in the wake of

the tsunami. Ordinary people are branded as “looters” who are taking advantage of a period of lawlessness.

The same happened in 2010 in Haiti when an earthquake devastated the Caribbean country.

This narrative is all part of an attempt to maintain order and respect for private property in the wake of disasters.

But why should people who have lost everything follow the rules of the system responsible for the deaths of their friends and

families? Society is organised so the people at the top have vast wealth, precisely because those at the bottom have nothing.

It is the International Monetary Fund, the bankers and the local rich who are the real looters in Indonesia.

If a situation arises that allows the poor to take back a tiny fraction of that wealth, they should take it.

And no comfortable liberal media commentator has the right to say otherwise.

MARXISM IN SCOTLAND

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●£10 waged ●£5 unwaged

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ANALYSIS

SIMON BASKETTER



The truth about food that makes us sick

PRET A Manger killed a teenage girl.

Natasha Ednan-Laperouse died after eating a baguette from the firm. She was unaware that sesame seeds—which she was allergic to—had been baked into the bread. The ingredient was not listed on the packaging.

Pret A Manger had previously proudly declared that its sandwiches had no labels “containing lots of boring numbers, dates and symbols” in a marketing campaign.

When food is made and packaged on the premises, outlets are not required to put allergen information on each item.

The legislation is designed to free small businesses from “red tape”. Pret A Manger has 500 branches in nine countries and a turnover of £776 million.

In the year prior to Natasha’s death, the company had received six complaints about allergic reactions to sesame in its “artisan” baguettes.

The pointless and ubiquitous, “May contain traces of nuts” is a clear guide that the people flogging your food don’t know what’s in it or how it is made. But they do have a legal department that fears compensation claims. Even if you don’t have a food allergy, that should worry you.

If you’re allergic to a food it doesn’t matter if it’s a peanut powder used to pad out more expensive almonds or it’s a locally sourced organic nut.

And no one knows for sure what causes food allergies, or the different but rising intolerances.

Yet Britain has some of the highest rates of allergic conditions in the world, with over 20 percent of the population affected. Some 20 people a year die from severe allergic reactions to food. In about a third of attacks, it isn’t clear which food was the cause.

The pursuit of profit in food production has produced a powerful correlation with the rise of dangerous food allergies and the adulteration of food.

Nearly all food is processed to be consumed. That isn’t a problem—but the methods used for food production for profit are.

The horse meat scandal in 2013 showed how food producers would happily adulterate food to make more cash.

There is a push towards obscure “clean labels” because people don’t trust E numbers. The purpose is still to obscure what’s in food.

“Fresh” cut fruit is sprayed in an acid solution to add 21 days to its shelf life. Commercial cooking oil is used for 12 days, kept “fresh” by antifreeze and varnish. It doesn’t appear on the label because it’s classed as a processing aid.

Chlorine

Ready-to-eat salads are “cleaned” by sloshing around in water dosed with extra chlorine and acids. The same tank of water is used for eight hours at a time.

“Natural colourings” is a pretty meaningless phrase. “Packaged in a protective atmosphere” is food that has been “gassed” in modified air to extend its shelf life.

Meat protein is collagen extracted from butchered carcasses, processed into a powder and added to meats or combined with water as a substitute for actual meat.

Eggs in sandwiches come pre-formed into cylinders, so that each egg slice is identical and there are no rounded ends. “Artisan” indeed. There is the cheaper option of using “egg replacers” made from whey.

They have a shelf life of 18 months.

A “natural” mature cheese is usually flavoured by blending new cheese with enzymes that intensify the flavour until it reaches “maturity” within 24 hours.

Enzymes are used to make bread stay soft, injected into low-value animals to tenderise their meat and used in fruit juice to create a cloudier appearance.

Butter can be dyed yellow by including yellow dye in cattle feed. It doesn’t have to be included on the label.

Even sushi won’t save you. Some 10 percent of seafood served as sushi is not the fish it claims to be.

None of this may directly cause life-threatening allergies. But since we don’t know what is in our food, it is hard to know.

In the past when the bosses adulterated beer there were riots. Now the poisoning of children gets you a corporate apology two years after the event and a vague promise of better labels.

Fujitsu privatisation failure could cost the NHS a fortune

The health service could soon be forced to pay £400 million to a multinational

IT GIANT Fujitsu could be about to snatch hundreds of millions of pounds from the NHS.

The multinational’s raid on public money follows its ten-year legal battle over a terminated contract with the Department of Health and Social Care.

The settlement could be as high as £400 million, according to the Digital Health news website. And it would come on top of a payment of at least £65 million to the company in October 2017.

The NHS has already been left with legal costs running into the tens of millions of pounds.

Fujitsu was handed an £896 million contract to digitise patient records in the south west of England in 2002. Within six years, it had only managed to install the IT system in nine acute hospital trusts in the region.

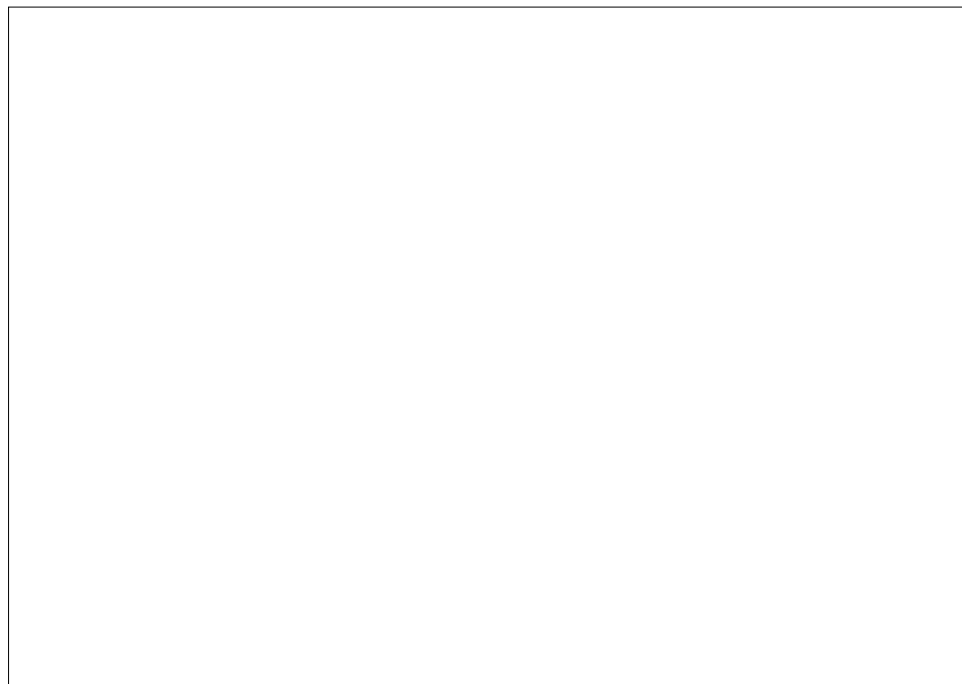
The National Programme for IT (NPFIT) was a show-piece of Labour prime minister Tony Blair’s plans to “modernise” the NHS.

Sums

His free market policies were based on handing private companies large sums of money to build new hospitals and install new equipment.

Yet Fujitsu’s record forced even the New Labour government to terminate the contract in 2008.

The company had already managed to snatch £151 million in its six years of failing to fulfil the contract. But it was



A bad sign—Fujitsu in the NHS

determined to get its hands on more cash—and sued the government for £700 million in “loss of earnings”.

When the Tories got into office in 2010, they tried to cobble together a back room deal but ended up in arbitration.

The final terms have now been agreed after the arbitrator’s decision in July 2014.

But the settlement is being

SYSTEM FAILURE—Fujitsu was handed an £896 million contract to digitise patient records

held up because of another dispute between Fujitsu and another NPFIT supplier, according to the Health Service Journal.

Fujitsu isn’t the only company that is getting money from the NHS.

The Department of Health is paying tens of millions of pounds a year to DXC Technologies, which took over NPFIT contractor CSC.

The payments are part of a deal struck in 2012 to get the government out of the contract.

The Tories are desperate to lay the blame solely on Labour—and to keep pushing through damaging policies.

Health secretary Matt Hancock admitted that the IT programme had “failed pretty

catastrophically and millions of pounds were wasted”. But he warned that the NHS should not “learn the wrong lessons”.

For Hancock the “wrong lesson” would mean blaming privatisation, not just a few bad companies.

Fujitsu shows up the catastrophic consequences of the privatisation drive within the health service.

Stopping the rip-offs means throwing out all of the private companies taking money off the NHS and using it to fund publicly-provided healthcare for all.

Got a story?
Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Nurses slam leaders for making shoddy pay deal

MEMBERS OF the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) have overwhelmingly backed a vote of no confidence in their leadership for mis-selling this year’s pay deal.

Some 78 percent voted for the no confidence motion at an emergency general meeting in Birmingham last Friday.

Their decision vindicates all those in Unison and other health unions who opposed the pay deal.

Andy, an RCN member in east London, told Socialist Worker, “People



PICTURE: GUY SWALLMAN

in other unions will be buoyed by this.

“The time to fight is now.”

Health workers were promised a 3 percent pay increase in 2018-19.

But this was broken into two stages for those who have not reached the top of their pay bands—1.5 percent in August and 1.5 percent on their pay increment date.

This means that unless a workers’ pay increment date was on 1 April, they won’t get the full 3 percent increase this year.

The RCN leadership is

still trying to cling onto office.

Andy said, “If they don’t stand down there will be another push against them.”

“But we have to be careful not to make this just about getting a new left wing leadership at the top of the union.

“The key thing is pushing to reopen the pay deal.”

Activists in Unison, Unite and the GMB should use the RCN vote to pressure their union leaders to work together to reopen the pay deal.



Indonesian tsunami—an avoidable tragedy

This was far from a ‘natural disaster’, says **Sadie Robinson**, it is the result of poverty and capitalism

A TSUNAMI early warning system that could have saved many lives in Indonesia had not been introduced because of lack of money.

A 7.5 magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit the country last Friday. Hundreds died in the cities of Palu and Donggala and the final death toll is expected to be in the thousands.

Survivors have been left to fend for themselves as supplies of medicine, food and water run low.

On Monday people blocked trucks carrying food supplies in western Palu.

Some are looting shops. One man in Palu said, “There has been no aid. We need to eat. We don’t have any other choice.”

Many of the deaths were preventable. The warning system was supposed to be introduced following an earthquake and tsunami in 2004 that killed 230,000 people.

Fourteen years later it is still just a prototype.

The new system would more accurately detect the threat of giant waves. If operational, it could warn of a threat within one to three minutes of a tsunami occurring.

This compares with the current system that gives a warning somewhere between five and 45 minutes after the waves start building.

The agencies involved with the project have suffered budget cuts. Indonesia’s ministry of finance was still delaying funding to buy and lay undersea cables last year. It finally approved funding in July.

Failed

But at a meeting last month, the three major agencies involved failed to reach any agreement on their responsibilities. Disaster management expert Louise Comfort, who has been involved in developing the system, said the project was “simply put on hold”.

The meteorology and geophysics agency issued a tsunami alert when the earthquake hit just after 6pm last Friday. It cancelled the warning at 6.36pm based on data from the

BACK STORY

A new early warning system is still at the prototype stage 14 years on

● Sensors for an old system were found to be flawed following a 2016 earthquake

● Power cuts also meant that warning sirens didn’t work

● The result of the cuts is that thousands are likely to have died needlessly

closest tidal sensor, which is around 125 miles from Palu.

Rahmat Triyono from the agency said, “We have no observation data at Palu. So we had to use the data we had and make a call based on that.”

Detection

Comfort said, “This is the data the tsunami detection system could provide.” Current systems for detecting and warning of tsunamis have failed miserably. A network of 22 buoys are connected to seafloor sensors that give advance warning of a tsunami.

But none of them worked during an earthquake in 2016.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho from the national disaster mitigation agency said the buoys haven’t worked since 2012 due to lack of funding. “If we look at the funding, it has decreased every year,” he said.

Indonesia also has sirens in around 55 places—but they didn’t work this time because of power cuts.

Rescuers struggled to reach victims trapped inside collapsed buildings because of a shortage of heavy equipment.

Indonesia’s workers and poor are hit by the demands of international bankers for cutbacks and the power of the local rich.

The four richest individuals in the country have a combined wealth greater than the poorest 100 million people.

THOUSANDS ARE thought to have died, many of whom could have survived if not for cutbacks

NIGERIA

Strike demands end to poverty pay after government talks break down

WORKERS ACROSS Nigeria in West Africa held a four-day mass strike last week demanding action over pay.

It began on Thursday last week after talks between President Muhammadu Buhari’s government and unions broke down.

Unions want the monthly minimum wage raised to 50,000 naira (£105) from 18,000 naira (£38).

Price rises and currency devaluations have hit living standards hard. Inflation is running at over 11 percent.

Support for the strike was strong, involving substantial

numbers in schools, textiles, public transport, health, banks and government offices. It was called off on Sunday just as it seemed likely to spread into the crucial oil sector.

Agreed

Union leaders said they were suspending it because the government had agreed to talks.

As the strike began, leaders of the Nigeria Labour Congress federation said, “This warning strike is absolutely necessary. It is a precursor to the main strike which will be the mother of all strikes.”



Members of the Nigerian Labour Congress struck last week

ARGENTINA

General strike to stop the massive IMF cuts

A 36-HOUR general strike brought Argentina to a standstill on Tuesday of last week. It was the fourth since Mauricio Macri’s neoliberal government took office in 2015.

Teachers and public sector workers joined transport and agricultural workers on the streets. Some workers had been out since Monday of last week.

The strike was against the effects

of skyrocketing inflation. The value of the Argentinian peso has fallen by 50 percent against the US dollar.

The country’s main port for agricultural goods, Rosario, was shut down.

“There is zero activity at the port. Neither loading nor unloading of cargoes,” said Guillermo Wade, head of Argentina’s Chamber for Port and Maritime Activities.

President Mauricio Macri

negotiated a £38 billion bailout with the IMF in June. There are reports that this could be expanded. But the price is more massive cuts to spending on top of what his government had already pushed through.

That hasn’t stopped the currency from nose-diving.

That will mean more attacks, and more struggle in response to them.



Kavanaugh case sparks big protests across US

Action in solidarity with victims shows that people want to fight oppression, says Alistair Farrow

THE REPUTATION of Donald Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court, Brett Kavanaugh, lies in tatters.

His confirmation hearings for the post culminated last Thursday in a day of confrontation between Kavanaugh and his principal accuser, Professor Christine Blasey Ford.

Ford accused him of sexually assaulting her at a party in the 1980s. Kavanaugh is also accused of other sexual assaults and of being involved in gang rapes.

He claimed the allegations were part of an orchestrated attack by "the left".

Now a separate FBI investigation into the allegations has been set up.

But it will only last a week and is unlikely to "unearth much more than was already known," according to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

And it is unlikely to have an effect on Kavanaugh's confirmation unless pressure is kept up.

The allegations against him reveal a world of patronage and privilege where women are treated as second class. Almost as shocking is the fact that they are not seen as a barrier to Kavanaugh taking office.

On top of recent allegations are the confirmed reports. For instance, Kavanaugh gave a clerkship—valuable work experience—to the underqualified son of Alex Kozinski.

Harassed

Alex Kozinski resigned last year following revelations that he sexually harassed his clerks. Kavanaugh claims to not have known about Kozinski's conduct—it has been alleged this is not credible.

Kavanaugh's political record is another reason to oppose him. He has tried to divert public funds to private religious schools. He has opposed abortion rights and federal funding for environmental protections.

Once the confirmation hearings conclude, the Senate Judiciary Committee will vote on whether

BACK STORY

Brett Kavanaugh is Donald Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court

- Several women have come forward to accuse Kavanaugh of sexual assaults and rapes
- The allegations sparked demonstrations across the US
- Protesters showed solidarity with Kavanaugh's main accuser, Christine Blasey Ford
- The Democratic establishment wants to use the scandal to win votes in elections next month

to accept Kavanaugh onto the Supreme Court. The vote will then go to the full Senate.

Republican senator Dean Heller of Nevada said, "We got a little hiccup here with the Kavanaugh nomination. We'll get through this and we'll get off to the races."

The Democratic establishment has been forced to acknowledge the strength of feeling that exists around Kavanaugh. But it sees the campaign against him as less about stopping his appointment.

Instead, it is more a part of a campaign to challenge Trump's Republican Party in the midterm elections next month.

Senior Democrats have put themselves at the head of the resistance to Trump and tried to limit its scope.

There were dozens of protests in support of Christine Blasey Ford's powerful testimony last Thursday.

Another day of protests was planned for Thursday of this week.

From the Women's March to the #MeToo movement, people across the US have shown that they want action against sexism and to resist Trump's attacks.

Those forces must be mobilised on the streets again.



On other pages...

When Derry dared to revolt
>>>Pages 14&15

PALESTINE

Israeli state murders children during Great March of Return action in Gaza

by NICK CLARK

ISRAEL KILLED seven Palestinians—including a 12 year old boy—during protests in Gaza last Friday.

Soldiers shot 12 year old Nasser Mosabih in the head as he protested along the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. They also killed 14 year old Mohammad Naif al Houm by shooting him in the chest.

The two children were among tens of thousands of Palestinians attacked by Israel during a weekly protest in Gaza on Friday.

Some 500 Palestinians were wounded—90 of them by live fire—on the protest of at least 20,000 people.

Mobilisations

It was one of the largest mobilisations of the Great March of Return—a series of weekly protests in Gaza that began in March this year.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have protested.

They are demanding an end to the Israeli siege that has penned them inside Gaza for more than a decade.

They also want the right to return to the land that Palestinians were expelled from when Israel was created in 1948.

Israel has responded with shocking brutality. The Palestinian Ministry of Health says at least 193 Palestinians have been killed since March, including 34 children.

Another 21,150 Palestinians have been injured, 4,200 of them children.

Palestinians have bravely defied the repression and some have fought back against the might of Israel's military.

Israel refuses to allow Palestinian refugees to return because it views the presence of Arabs as a threat to its existence.

Some 850,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes in 1948 by a programme of ethnic cleansing. Israel says demanding the right of return for refugees and their descendants is antisemitic because it spells the end of Israel as a Jewish state.

It uses severe repression against Palestinians to maintain its ethnic majority. It is supported by the US and Britain as vital allies in their dominance of the Middle East.

And earlier this year the Israeli

PROTESTERS ACROSS the US (main) showed solidarity with Christine Blasey Ford (left) last week during her testimony detailing how Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh tried to rape her when she was 15 years old

MAIN PICTURE: MS MAGAZINE/TWITTER

government approved the Nation State Law enshrining racism against Palestinians into its constitution. It says only Jewish people have the right to citizenship inside Israel's borders.

The law is designed to ensure Palestinians remain subordinated.

Settlements

Israel has built several large settlements on occupied territory and hopes to claim the land.

But annexing Palestinian land would mean Arabs once more become the majority.

The only just solution is a single secular state in all of Palestine, with equal democratic rights for Arabs and Jews.

But Israel and its allies prefer to search for ways to keep Palestinians oppressed. Last week US president Donald Trump said he wants a "two-state solution"—a Palestinian state next to Israel.

But Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu said any future Palestinian state would have to be under Israeli military control.

In other words, even if it happened a two state solution wouldn't end the occupation of Palestine.

Dividing workers

SOCIALIST Worker's assessment of Scottish party leader Richard Leonard's speech at Labour conference is wrong (Socialist Worker, 28 September).

It panders to the sectarian division of Scotland along nationalist/unionist lines.

Leonard's message was that it doesn't help unite the working class to split us along those lines.

His speech didn't go far enough by arguing for a socialist federation in Britain to resolve the democratic deficit.

Leonard is the first socialist to lead from the frontline of the Scottish Parliament since 2007.

The majority of the revolutionary left is still operating like during the independence referendum of 2014.

In practice, that means a political line of "Yes to nationalism, no to class unity and socialism".

Mark Porciani
Edinburgh

Back Scots referendum

TO SAY that a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government will deny a second Scottish independence referendum is electoral suicide for Scottish Labour.

Labour really should be saying that it will grant an independence vote if people ask for it and that they would respect the decision.

What Labour shouldn't be doing is lining up with the Tories yet again.

Duncan Brown
Glasgow

You will put people off a brilliant filmmaker

AGNES VARDA is a socialist filmmaker. In 1968 she lived in the US and made a film supporting the Black Panther party.

And One Sings, the Other Doesn't, a film she wrote and directed in 1976, supports a woman's right to choose

Socialist Worker newspaper gave a positive review of her latest film Faces, Places (Socialist Worker, 28 August).

It pointed out that



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Co-op supermarket fails to cooperate with our rights

THE CO-OP seems to have joined the race to the bottom on workers' rights.

Someone I know, who has worked at the same Co-op shop for over a decade, recently received a letter from the company.

Workers have been asked to be more flexible in the hours they are prepared to work.

The workers I know offered to work between 8am and 6pm, seven days a week.

Bosses have told them this is not enough.

The shop requires staff to be available to work at any time, up until 11pm, seven days a week.

There are no regular shifts and staff work different hours every week at short notice.

Obviously this has a detrimental effect on their sleep patterns, family arrangements and work-life balance.

The letter told workers that they need to be more "flexible" or they will be sacked and offered re-employment on new contracts.

The workers are Usdaw members, but the union appears to be reluctant to take up the issue.

What Co-op is doing is part of a wider pattern.

In another example, workers at a small local firm have been issued with new contracts. Bosses say this is "to bring the contracts up to date with the law".

The new contracts state where employees' normal place of work is, but say, "You may be required

to work anywhere in the UK". And it adds, "You may be requested to work abroad for no more than one month".

Some 90 percent of the workers have never worked anywhere else but at the main site.

And none of them have ever been asked to work abroad.

The company has no other premises or interests.

Despite the fact that the clauses are meaningless, workers have been told that including them is now standard practice.

Workers believe that bosses are taking the piss and have refused to sign the contracts until the clauses are removed.

Dave Ramsden
Bradford

Delegates stood with Palestine

THE undisputed highlight of Labour conference was the open display of international solidarity for the Palestinians.

Delegate Colin Monehen's impassioned speech sent a message to the world.

It said that we do not accept the Israeli government's atrocities against the Palestinian



Labour Party members want to support the Palestinians

people. As the motion was being put forward, every delegate, every affiliate and every visitor was on their feet waving a Palestinian flag.

Chants of "Free, free Palestine" broke out around

the hall. The message to them is clear—we have not forgotten you, our voices will not be silenced until you are free.

Pauline Wheat-Bowen
Palestine Solidarity Campaign,
Huddersfield

Just a thought...

Bonus points for Labour

MY EAST Asian heritage welcomes shadow Labour chancellor John McDonnell's comments about workers receiving bonuses and sitting on company boards.

East Asian workers have received annual bonuses of one to two months pay for the past 40 years.

He also lauded John Lewis as a model for "employee share ownership".

My trade union background notes that John Lewis partners will receive zero bonus this year.

Laurence Wong
South London

All Ugandans must be free

CHARLIE KIMBER is right when he says that Uganda's struggle must continue. (Socialist Worker, 28 August).

President Yoweri Museveni is clinging to power by rigging elections and arresting and beating opponents.

But young people who struggle for change are looking to Bobi Wine.

Wine was banned from performing in Britain in 2014 because of homophobic lyrics.

I hope he learns in the heat of the struggle that freedom for Ugandans means freedom for all including LGBT+ people.

Ivor Richard
Wolverhampton

Diminishing real fascism

HEADLINES SUCH as "Robinson is a fascist threat" diminish the impact of real fascists.

Tommy Robinson is someone with right wing views, but not a Nazi.

Geoff Bridges
On Facebook

Campbell is a hypocrite

ALISTAIR Campbell said right wing Brexiteer Arron Banks was a "horrible human being with no sense of history and next to no humanity."

Blair's former spin doctor has no sense of irony.

This is the man responsible for destroying Iraq and murdering 1 million people.

Julia Ryder
Worcestershire

BLOOD MONEY

A new inquiry is set to look at the decades of secrecy shrouding the use of contaminated blood in Britain. Thousands died as a result of being given blood that experts knew was infected with Hepatitis C. **Sadie Robinson** spoke to those fighting for justice

GLENN Wilkinson found out that he had Hepatitis C during dental work. He was told that he faced deteriorating liver disease leading to cirrhosis, liver cancer and possible death.

Glenn had the disease since 1983 when he was given a contaminated blood product called Factor VIII during a tooth extraction. He wasn't told until 1995.

Jackie Britton was infected with Hepatitis C in 1983 following a blood transfusion after childbirth. She now has liver cirrhosis and has to have a scan every six months to check for cancer.

Jackie wasn't diagnosed until 2011. Michelle Tolley was infected with the disease in 1987 also after a transfusion following childbirth—but didn't find out until November 2015.

In the mid-1990s she'd seen a TV advert warning people who had been given blood transfusions that they should visit their GP. Yet when she went and suggested she may have Hepatitis C she was told she was being "silly".

These are just three of the thousands of people who developed serious illnesses after being treated with contaminated blood. Some 2,800 people in Britain have already died as a result of contracting Hepatitis C or HIV through blood or blood products.

British governments bought the blood cheaply from the US in the



Blood transfusions are vital to a functioning health service, but governments have tried to cut costs (above) Socialist Worker has long campaigned over the issue, as in this article from 2007 (below)



that need to be under the spotlight," Jackie told Socialist Worker. "It's about how we were treated afterwards. There are scandals inside scandals."

"I was lucky—I had no tattoos. If I had, they'd have probably told me I'd picked up the infection through that."

Glenn described how, when he was told he had Hepatitis C, he was asked if he'd had tattoos, if he'd been "promiscuous" or if he'd taken drugs.

He told Socialist Worker, "The shifting of blame is a common theme, as is people finding that information is missing from their medical records."

The Infected Blood Inquiry that opened last week heard that medical records were destroyed and doctored in order to stop the truth from coming out.

Socialist Worker has covered the scandal and given a voice to victims for a number of years.

Now an inquiry has heard that 25,000 people may have been infected, many of whom still know nothing about it.

Michelle told Socialist Worker, "I want the truth. I want to know why this happened and I want to know who gave their consent to do that to all of us."

It's bad enough that governments allowed ordinary people to be treated with tainted blood. But then came the attempts to blame the victims.

"It's not just the initial infections

Glenn agreed. "We suspect there's been a systematic move to remove key information from people's medical records," he said.

Lloyd Williams QC told the inquiry that one woman was accused of having multiple sexual partners or using illegal drugs when diagnosed with Hepatitis C.

She had actually contracted it from contaminated blood given to her during childbirth. Williams said the authorities had kept their "mouths shut, files closed and shredders busy" for the last three decades.

If things couldn't get any worse, there is also evidence that people were deliberately given tainted blood in order to test its "infectivity".

The so-called "Chimpanzee letter" was shown to the inquiry last week. Sent from the Oxford Health Authority to all Directors of Haemophilia centres, it said that



There's evidence the people were deliberately given tainted blood to test its infectivity

initial batches of tainted blood had been "tested for infectivity by injecting them into chimpanzees".

But it added, "It is unlikely that the manufacturers will be able to guarantee this form of quality control for all future batches. It is therefore very important to find out by studies in human beings to what extent the infectivity of the various concentrates has been reduced."

The letter was sent in January 1982.

'Young pups'

The inquiry heard how one consultant referred to two haemophilic twin brothers as his "young pups".

But far from being a term of affection, it stood for Previously Uninfected Patients.

Glenn said, "The products were known to be at risk of being infected at an early stage. Researchers were testing them on animals. But because it was expensive to buy chimpanzees, they felt it was better to test them on humans."

Jackie said, "It was unbelievable to watch these emails coming up on the screen. To say that it would be cheaper to test the blood on people than on chimpanzees. How can you write these things?"

Many of those given tainted blood were haemophiliacs, but many weren't. Campaigners are determined that all victims get a chance to speak out.

Some think the media has narrowly

focused on haemophilic victims—and this risks limiting public anger over the scandal.

"They've allowed the media to cover the haemophilia angle because if you don't have haemophilia you can empathise but it won't affect you," said Jackie. "But lots of people infected didn't have haemophilia."

"When people hear that, they know that any ordinary member of the public could say, that could affect my family."

Glenn added, "The danger is that people will think, it's terrible what's happened to haemophiliacs. But there's a larger story to be told here and it's relevant to the general population."

Victims and their families have waited decades for a thorough inquiry into the scandal. In the meantime people have continued to die. Now those affected want the truth to come out—and for all those responsible to be held to account.

Jackie said, "This isn't just about the people who were in government at the time. I believe that every prime minister since the late 1970s should be brought to stand and answer questions."

"They could've done something about this sooner. By their silence they have allowed this to continue. More people have died and they've allowed that to happen."

"This is our last chance," said Glenn. "We must get to the truth. No stone must be left unturned."



How the state is still trying to cover up the scandal

THE TORIES are conspiring to withhold key documents from the Infected Blood Inquiry, Steven Snowden QC told the inquiry as it opened last week.

Snowden said campaigner Jason Evans had applied for files from the Treasury and Cabinet Office.

His father died as a result of being given infected blood. Jason eventually obtained a list of documents which included a 1991 Treasury file dealing with health risks to haemophiliacs.

But the department said it would be too expensive to release the file. When he asked for the release of communications between departments regarding his original request "he got 30 pages of emails between the Cabinet Office and Treasury discussing how to respond".

Snowden added that NHS trusts are "destroying individual records".

Snowden is instructed by Collins Solicitors, which has accused the government of renegeing on promises to pay victims' legal costs.

Des Collins, a senior partner at the firm said the government's refusal to release documents "can only be described as collusion".

"It is outrageous, but sadly unexpected," he said. "How can those affected by this tragedy trust anyone if it looks as if the dice are rigged from the start?"



Protesting at the governments' failure to accept full responsibility for the tainted blood scandal (left, and below)

NEW INQUIRY

A hearing for the victims and families

THE INQUIRY began by hearing some testimonies from victims. One woman was infected with HIV from her husband, who had been given contaminated blood.

"This was the mid-1980s and the climate of fear, discrimination and stigma associated with HIV and Aids was horrendous," she said. "We coped the best we could. We were silenced, and we kept quiet."

Steve Dymond was given contaminated blood in the mid-1980s but was only diagnosed with Hep C in the 1990s. He said victims had been "betrayed and lied to," and accused the authorities of trying to avoid responsibility.

Lloyd Williams QC said, "One should not underestimate the sheer anger felt by the victims. Their feelings are as raw today as they have ever been."

Breakdown

Williams described a 17 year old boy being told he had HIV but not to tell anyone due to the stigma. "He was told he had about 18 months to live," said Williams. "He regarded it as a death sentence. He had a nervous breakdown and was admitted to a psychiatric hospital."

Williams told the court in his opening speech, "The victims want their stories heard, and what appalling stories they have to tell. They are the wholly innocent victims of catastrophic failures."

He added that victims have had to fight hard "for everything, including treatment and financial support".

Jackie agreed. "I had to fight tooth and nail for all of my treatments," she told Socialist Worker. "Every time I have to apply for costs to have scans done. It adds to the stress."

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state — a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

YORK

#MeToo — sexism and the system

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BARNLEY

After Grenfell — how do we get the housing we need?

Thu 11 Oct, 6.30pm,
Emmanuel Methodist
Church Huddersfield Rd,
S75 1DT

BIRMINGHAM

Angela Davis — women, race and class

Wed 10 Oct, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BRIGHTON & HOVE

From Wetherspoon to TGI Fridays — how has the working class changed?

Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

Debate — should the left demand a second Brexit referendum?

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

With Huw Williams from the SWP and Phil Pope from the Labour Party

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

The history and traditions of the SWP

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

The blood never dried — a people's history of the British Empire

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

The Brexit crisis — how do we get rid of the Tories?

Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

Trump — trade wars and real wars

Thu 25 Oct, 8pm,
Hythe Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive,
CO1 2FG

ABERDEEN

Wed 10 Oct, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BOLTON

Wed 10 Oct, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

DERBY

A rebel's guide to Martin Luther King

Thu 18 Oct, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd,
DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

#MeToo — sexism and the system

Tue 9 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Womens Centre
(Changing Lives),
5 Princes street, DN1 3NJ

DONCASTER

Wed 24 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Womens Centre
(Changing Lives),
5 Princes street,
DN1 3NJ

HUDDERSFIELD

Wed 10 Oct, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade,
HD1 5JP

DUNDEE

The history of slavery and Scotland

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

HARLOW

Why socialists oppose all borders

Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

OXFORD

Thu 11 Oct, 7pm,
Oxford Town Hall,
St Aldate's,
OX1 1BX

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Wed 24 Oct, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St,
WV1 4HW

HULL

Prevent — why we should dissent

Thu 18 Oct, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Fascism and the rise of the far right — how do we fight it?

Thu 11 Oct, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Going beyond the binary — Marxism, gender and trans politics

Thu 11 Oct, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

Capitalism vs the climate

Wed 10 Oct, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Lane,
L1 3BT

LONDON: HACKNEY

#MeToo — sexism and the system

Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Where does racism come from and how do we fight it?

Mon 8 Oct, 7pm,
Italian Trade Union Centre,
124 Canonbury Rd,
N1 2UT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Marx@200 — The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Wed 17 Oct, 7.30pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffin St,
SE8 4RH

LONDON: SOUTH

Capitalism and fashion — what will you wear to the revolution?

Wed 3 Oct, 7pm,
Karibu Centre,
7 Gresham Rd,
SW9 7PH

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Corbynomics — can McDonnell's plans bring us socialism?

Wed 10 Oct, 7pm,
Epainos Church,
Lichfield Road,
E3 5AT

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Black cowboys and the Wild West

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

LONDON: WEST

Police, racism and the state

Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush, W12 7DZ

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Not just biology — Marxism and women's oppression

Wed 10 Oct, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

NORWICH

How do we fight for justice for the Windrush Generation?

Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

From Deliveroo to McStrike — how has the working class changed?

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

PLYMOUTH

The global crisis — ten years on

Thu 18 Oct, 7.30pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
PL4 6LF

PORTSMOUTH

Socialism, anti-racism and resistance today

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

Africa and imperialism today

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Food and capitalism

Thu 11 Oct, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible
Theatre), S1 2JB

SWANSEA

The global crisis — ten years on

Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

TELFORD

Palestine, antisemitism and defending Corbyn

Thu 18 Oct, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade,
Wellington, TF1 1PY

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Socialism — what sort of party do we need?

Wed 17 Oct, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St, WV1 4HW

YORK

The lost revolution — Germany 1918-1923

Wed 17 Oct, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

EDINBURGH

Syrian Voices film showing

Wed 10 October, 7pm
Medical School,
Teviot Place,
University of Edinburgh
Hosted by Stand Up
To Racism and refugee
charity The Welcoming

NATIONAL

Confronting racism and fascism — international conference

Sat 20 Oct,
10am-5.30pm,
Friends House,
Euston Road, NW1 2BJ.
Speakers include Labour's
John McDonnell and
Diane Abbott.
Go to bit.ly/RacismConference

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Western genre does justice to horror of Ireland's famine

Black 47 is a familiar tale of righteous violent revenge. But its subject matter sees it stand alone from other classics of the genre, writes **Simon Basketter**

DIRECTOR LANCE Daly's powerful revenge fable **Black 47** is an Irish Western.

Set in an Ireland where the sun never shines. A skull in a puddle—the hardship tangible in a striking cold, bleached-out look. The year is 1847, and Ireland's Great Famine is scarcely approaching its devastating midpoint.

The hero who's wronged by evildoers is common enough on screen. It's normally little more than an excuse to justify righteous bloodshed.

But **Black 47** asks, "What if an entire society was devastated?"

Martin Feeney, played by James Frecheville, has come back after serving with the British army in Afghanistan.

There is death and destruction wherever he looks. The potato crops have failed. Landlords have evicted their tenants whose roofless homes are now pens for livestock.

Feeney embarks on a journey of revenge against the officials, landowners, and collaborators responsible. The Irish are victimised because of their language and their religion.

The obscenity of landowners hoarding grain at a time when so many are dying of starvation is there.

Feeney is pursued by a motley posse led by Captain Pope (Freddie Fox), an eminently punchable posh officer.

Private Hobson (Barry Keoghan) serves as his more sensitive orderly and Stephen Rea's ambivalent, pragmatic Conneely sells the party his services as translator and guide.

Jim Broadbent plays Anglo-Irish aristocrat Lord Kilmichael, the top name on Feeney's death list. He's an eccentric, stubborn and seemingly genial figure—but one who has no sympathy for those starving outside the gates of his country house.

Rare

Repeating, with a chortle, a refrain that would subsequently make it into Joyce's "Ulysses," Kilmichael looks forward to the day when "a Celtic Irishman in Ireland will be as rare a sight as a Red Indian in Manhattan".

He observes that the Irish, being peasants, don't appreciate the Connemara landscape.

"Beauty would be held in much higher regard if it could be eaten," replies Conneely.

There are familiar tropes and the occasional cliché—but done well. We're unused to seeing the Irish countryside dotted with so many dwellings, because of the very decimation of the rural population the film portrays.

It is grafting genre onto disregarded history. Though the absence of significant women characters is noticeable.



COLD AND brutal—James Frecheville and Hugo Weaving in **Black 47**



Posh officer Captain Pope

There are plenty of cinematic nods to the westerns of Sam Peckinpah, Clint Eastwood and others. It rises in a different direction to those and more modern equivalents by situating itself more strongly.

Watching bastions of brutal repressive British rule get some comeuppance is cathartic.

But grounding the story in the real history of the Great Famine makes it more than a revenge film.

Escapist entertainment touching on grim subject matter is not a bad trick to pull off and it makes for a fine movie.

Black 47 is on limited release now

Starvation was weapon of British colonialism

THE GREAT Famine of 1845-50 saw over a million people die. Another million emigrated and the population fell by a quarter.

It was the result of British colonialism.

The idea, propagated by the British ruling class at the time, that feckless Irish peasants were unable to help themselves has been repeated often since.

The key was that landlords invested next to nothing in their lands, dividing it into small patches to draw as much rent as possible.

Irish agriculture had already entered a deep crisis in the early 1840s. Landlords resorted to mass evictions.

The demand for land reform had fuelled monster rallies for repeal of the union between Ireland and Britain which Daniel O'Connell organised in 1843.

Potato blight infected crops across Europe in the 1840s. For

British politicians the blight was a gift from god which would remove the Irish peasantry.

Public work schemes, food imports and soup kitchens were all scrapped.

Underlying the British government's approach to the famine was the fear of revolution in Ireland.

There was resistance. In 1846 the government imported maize after food riots in Tipperary and Kilkenny.

These were known as centres of agrarian rebellion and were also grain growing regions where the victims of the famine could see convoys removing grain for export.

In the winter of 1848-49 there was a revival of widespread armed resistance to mass evictions.

Republicans led an abortive rising in 1848 but did not try to ally themselves with rural rebels.

THEATRE

PINTER AT THE PINTER

The Harold Pinter Theatre, Panton St, central London SW1Y 4DN.

Until Saturday 23 February 2019.

Go to pinteratthepinter.com

THE JAMIE Lloyd Company presents a season of Harold Pinter's one-act plays on the tenth anniversary of his death, in the theatre that bears his name.

Pinter at the Pinter is a unique event featuring all twenty of his short plays.

They will be presented in repertoire by a company of world class actors, many of whom were Harold Pinter's friends and collaborators.

EXHIBITION

CLAUDE CAHUN—BENEATH THIS MASK

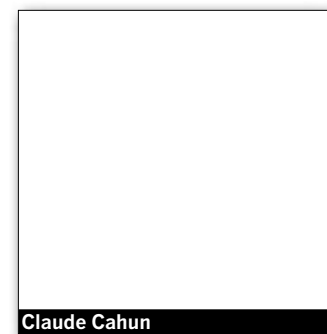
Gala Gallery, Millennium Place, Durham, DH1 1WA.

Sunday 11 November

THIS HAYWARD Gallery Touring exhibition features the work of French photographer Claude Cahun whose practice investigated gender and identity.

Born Lucy Schwob, she adopted the pseudonym in 1917 to free herself from the narrow confines of gender.

Cahun achieved posthumous fame for her elusive self-portraits



Claude Cahun

in which she assumed multiple personas.

Her work subverts traditional portraiture and the constructed nature of identity and gender.

EXHIBITION

JAMIE REID XXXXX—50 YEARS OF SUBVERSION AND THE SPIRIT

Humber Street Gallery, 64 Humber Street, Hull, HU1 1TU. From 12 October until 6 January

HUMBER STREET Gallery presents a retrospective look at the British artist and activist's work and life of rebelling against society's social and cultural injustices.

Spanning a career of over 50 years, Reid has become synonymous with the spirit of British punk with his signature newspaper cutting graphics.

A FEW hundred people assembled in the mainly Protestant area of the Waterside in Derry in Northern Ireland on 5 October 1968. It seemed unlikely they would have much effect.

But the protest was to spark one of the biggest revolts against the British state.

The civil rights protesters carried placards with messages such as, “class not creed”. Their demonstration had been banned by the Unionist government.

Marching into the walled city of Derry was a privilege that was only available to the sectarian bigots of the Orange Order.

Some thought the ban on the march had doubled the size of it up to about 600.

When they reached Duke Street, two double lines of police drew their batons and laid into the marchers. It wasn't really a police charge as the cops walked slowly through the crowded hitting people hard over the head.

Across the world's TV stations an image appeared of a middle aged man crying out, “For God's sake, man” and then crumpling up in pain from a police attack.

Police in armoured cars fought to drive the people back into the Catholic ghettos. Soon it wasn't a riot but an uprising. For the next few nights barricades were erected against the police. Petrol bombs made their appearance in the streets of Derry.

Key activist and one of the march organisers Eamonn McCann wrote, “The day after there was a palpable sense of excitement around the Bogside. There were crowds of people everywhere debating what to do next.

“Politics buzzed. And coming clear was a conviction, a certainty, that nothing was ever going to be the same again. No one knew exactly what was possible, so everything was.”

Grievances

The grievances were many. After partition of Ireland and after the British were pushed out of the South in 1921, the North remained under British rule. The Stormont regime was dependent on London for money.

The politics of the new entity quickly took on a rigid, frozen form. For half a century, the Unionist party won every election, formed every government, supplied every cabinet minister, and took every decision.

Membership of the party was Protestant, and virtually every government minister was a member of the Orange Order.

Voting patterns followed religious affiliation so predictably that large numbers of constituencies and local councils were



PEOPLE FIGHT to force police back after cops assaulted the march on 5 October 1968

PICTURE: PA

DERRY DARED TO REVOLT

Fifty years ago this week an attack on a Derry civil rights march led to one of the biggest revolts against British rule in Northern Ireland. **Simon Basketter** tells the story



Bernadette Devlin

uncontested for decades. Little effort was made to co-opt even the most amenable elements in the Catholic middle class.

The Unionist government had large numbers of public appointments at its disposal but was proud of not hiring Catholics.

The state was based on exclusion and discrimination and there were disproportionately high levels of Catholic unemployment and emigration. This seemingly impregnable,



The territorial exclusion of the state's forces was a watershed

self-reproducing system had a weak spot—mass opposition. And the crack that could open things up for the opposition was housing.

Housing discrimination provided an issue in which the connection between material disadvantage and Unionist political control was immediately apparent.

Derry, like many Northern Irish towns, had a deliberately discriminatory voting system in local elections. Rich

businessmen could get as many as 25 votes while the unemployed had no vote.

The city council elections were “gerrymandered”—drawn up—to ensure a Unionist majority in a predominantly Catholic town. Housing lists were static to keep the electoral fraud secure.

Derry was a microcosm of Northern Ireland as a whole. Here was an artificial state designed to ensure a permanent Unionist majority.

Local activists in Derry and Dungannon, two of the most discriminatory of the local authorities, had been agitating on these issues since 1963.

In Derry, activists had staged sit-ins, pickets, and protests through 1967 and 1968.

The Civil Rights Association was established in 1967 and provided a focus for mobilisation on a broad range of issues.

The first march, from Coalisland to Dungannon in County Tyrone in August 1968 saw about 2,000 marchers.

The turnout of about 600 at the next march, in Derry in October 1968, was smaller. Partially this was because of a fear of being attacked. It was also organised by the more militant elements in the movement.

By the late 1960s, the stability of the North began to be undermined by developments within capitalism itself.

FOR MOST of its existence the bigotry and sectarianism of Northern Ireland was rarely mentioned in the House of Commons. Both the Tories and the Labour Party were content to leave the Unionist Party to their own devices.

Within a week of the original march in Derry, two distinct wings of the movement had crystallised.

A Citizen's Action Committee led by factory managers Ivan Cooper and John Hume was formed. It brought together the leading Catholic businessmen, teachers and priests.

It aimed to use the anger of the masses to create new openings for the Catholic middle class in the Northern state.

To achieve this, however, it needed to head off the militant protests and reach an accommodation with the Northern Ireland state.

Within weeks it was condemning “hooligans” and the “ultra left”. In truth the state wasn't prepared at this stage to compromise.

On 8 October People's Democracy (PD) was formed. This organised the left of the movement and according to its founder, Michael Farrell, was inspired by the 1968 student revolt in Paris “and by the concepts of libertarianism as well as socialism”.

For over a year the PD, alongside those grouped around Eamonn McCann in Derry, were the most active force.

This left stood for direct

action. Sit-ins, invasions of council chambers, provocations of the police became their stock and trade.

There were attempts to link this militancy with a clear appeal to the Protestant working class. That's why the 5 October demonstration had left from the Waterside. The demand was not for more jobs for Catholics and less jobs for Protestants—but better conditions for all workers.

According to key activist Bernadette Devlin, “The basis on which we can communicate with the Protestants is by being honestly socialist.”

When the civil rights leadership called a truce in 1968, the PD organised a Belfast to Derry march to expose the sectarianism and thuggery of the RUC police.

In January 1969 off-duty B-Specials (para military police) and other loyalists attacked the march repeatedly as it passed through Buntollet on the outskirts of Derry.

The police escort made little effort to stop the attack. Intense, large-scale rioting broke out in Derry that evening after the marchers arrived.

Barricades were erected again where the working class nationalist Bogside District met the city centre, and the police were again excluded from the area for three days.

Barricaded

Following the “Free Berkeley” slogan of student protesters in the US, the barricaded zone was dubbed “Free Derry”. The slogan, “You are now entering Free Derry” was painted on a wall in the Bogside.

This territorial exclusion of state forces was a watershed. It illustrated the fragility of the sectarian state's control of many of the predominantly Catholic areas under its authority.

A few months later Derry was also the site of the “Battle of the Bogside.” This was large-scale rioting in August 1969 after police and the B-Specials attempted a pogrom through the Bogside.

The police lost control of the city and, by the third day of clashes, the coercive capacity of the Northern Ireland state was running out. The British Labour government responded by propping it up by sending troops onto streets.

The depth of resistance meant that the British state could not repress Northern Ireland to stability. But the repression did weaken the potential for mass resistance that could have ended the sectarian state.

The Achilles' heel of PD was its belief in simply reflecting the spontaneous moods of struggle.



A poster advertising the march (top) Socialist Worker's October 1968 front page by Eamonn McCann (above)

With troops on the street that became a less tenable position. The assaults of the B-Specials and later the British army taught that there would be no civil rights until the sectarian state was smashed.

The state responded to mobilisation with more and more repression—internment and massacring civilians on Bloody Sunday in 1972.

Without organisation looking to mass mobilisation North and—importantly—South, the space of resistance was filled by armed struggle against Britain.

The Republicans were a tiny force in Northern Ireland in 1968. But their message began to connect with thousands who faced the bullets of the British army and the naked terror campaign of Loyalist death squads.

The depth of resistance meant that the British state could not repress Northern Ireland to stability. But the repression did weaken the potential for mass resistance that could have ended the sectarian state.

READ MORE

● **War and an Irish Town** by Eamonn McCann £14.99

● **Politics in the Streets—the origins of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland** by Bob Purdie Online at bit.ly/PoliticsStreets

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



‘This is not a riot. It is an outburst of rage’

The week after the Derry events Socialist Worker ran a front page story by Eamonn McCann. We reproduce an abridged version below



EAMONN MCCANN (centre) on the march

Corporation, controlled by the Unionist Party because of a gerrymandered electoral system has built 15 houses in three years.

It has allocated them to its Protestant supporters while Catholic working class families (who are the majority in Derry) live in conditions which would turn the stomach of an Islington slum-dweller.

A unique voting system in municipal elections gives the rich extra votes.

Sir Basil McFarlane, for example, has 26 votes in a municipal election. I am a 28 year old worker. I have none. The Northern Ireland Special Powers Act gives the police the right to arrest without warrant and intern without trial.

Such discrimination inevitably produced a sectarian consciousness among the Catholic working class. They saw the state as being biased against them as Catholics.

The beginning of a new phase was marked by the formation of the Derry Housing Action

Committee in February. It is a self-appointed body comprising Republicans, leading members of the Labour Party and a number of unattached radicals.

It began a campaign of civil disobedience. It disrupted corporation meetings and organised rent strikes. In June it blocked a main bus route for 48 hours with the caravan home of a family of four. Landlords' homes were picketed, official ceremonies broken up.

The local Labour Party joined with the Action Committee in an informal united front on the housing issue.

Illegal

The Derry Republican Club (an illegal organisation) came into the open and proclaimed its existence with banners at housing demonstrations.

The result was a decisive realignment in which, for the first time in Derry, a militant, if ill-defined, political campaign got off the ground without arousing any sectarian feeling.

The most vital and significant fact is that there has been no Catholic-Protestant confrontation. It is this that frightens the Unionist authorities.

They have always been content to see workers tearing each other to pieces.

The politicians are happy in the knowledge that worker-against-worker warfare shored up the state by obscuring the class basis of religious discrimination.



Fighting spread to the centre of the city as police beat the people back

Anti-racist activity in your local area

Stand Up To Racism supporters have been organising across Britain to take on racism and the far right. Here's Socialist Worker's round-up

Newcastle

Some 200 anti-racists came out on Saturday to oppose and outnumber a "Ban the burqa" demonstration of 40 racists from the Frontline Patriots.

It followed a series of mobilisations by the far right in north east England in recent weeks.

Activists are building for a big turnout on the 17 November national demonstration in London.

Manchester university

Activists in the Stand Up To Racism group at Manchester university organised their first action of the new academic year after freshers' fair last week.



OPPOSING THE far right in Newcastle

Around a dozen students took part in a protest against the Generation Identity (GI) group, which had put up racist stickers on the campus.

GI is a white supremacist group that looks to Donald Trump and the alt right in the US.

While it is small, GI is trying to get make Muslim students feel intimidated at a number of campuses.

Other student SUTR groups should look out for signs of far right activity at their colleges.

Manchester students also held a Kick Racism Off

Campus planning meeting on Monday.

They are organising for an SUTR rally on campus next week, titled of "How can we stop racism and the far right?"

Speakers include Labour's shadow immigration minister and local MP Afzal Khan and

UCU union vice president Nita Sanghera.

The meeting is part of a national campus tour organised by SUTR and UCU.

●For a full list of upcoming meetings go to standuptoracism.org.uk

Birmingham

Supporters of SUTR groups in Birmingham were part of the protest against the Tory party conference last Saturday (see page 4).

Chants of, "Tories out—refugees in" rang out from their lively bloc on the 1,200-strong demonstration.

They were joined by members of the SUTR group at Wolverhampton university.

Black Country

Jeremy Corbyn held large meetings in Halesowen and Redditch, near Birmingham last week.

Supporters of Black Country SUTR leafleted the Halesowen meeting to build support for the national demo.

They received a warm

reception. Those leafleting for SUTR included local Labour members and activists.

Glasgow

A student member of SUTR at the Glasgow School of Art got the principal to announce the group's first organising meeting to the freshers' welcome assembly.

Activists leafleting the assembly were mobbed afterwards, with students queuing up to take leaflets.

At nearby Glasgow university, students were set to hold a film screening of Calais Children.

Leeds

The Leeds SUTR group held a stall at the Muslims of Leeds event last Saturday that was organised by Muslim Engagement and Development.

They publicised the SUTR international conference on 20 October and the national demonstration.

Send news of your local SUTR group's activities to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

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Barnet Tory council's latest privatising fraud revealed

Outsourcing has been rife at Barnet council in north London. A new report shows how corruption developed in privatised services, reports Sarah Bates

THE SCAM of privatisation has been exposed in a new fraud investigation into a north London council.

The latest investigation brings to light how corruption was allowed to fester within the outsourcing operations of Barnet council.

The Tory-run borough has outsourced huge swathes of its council-run services to private companies.

Fresh evidence points to ruined lives, attacks on workers, corruption and worse public services.

The local authority commissioned accounting firm Grant Thornton to produce a report, which was released last week.

It says that “Fundamental weaknesses” in the structures of the “partnership” between council and outsourcing giant Capita allowed a member of staff to steal millions.

Trishul Shah worked as a capital investment manager and made 62 fraudulent payments straight into personal bank accounts. The total amounted to £2,063,972.

The outsourcing project has been so disastrous, the council is now consulting residents about whether to take some or all services back in house.

The latest investigation focuses on two contracts tendered to Capita in 2013.

The company won the contract—worth £424 million—to deliver back office services and development and regulatory services over a ten-year period.

This means everything from management of council land, IT services, planning applications and cemeteries is controlled by the firm.

The Grant Thornton report is a



PROTESTING AGAINST Capita's privatising in July

damning assessment of how these projects have been managed.

It points to how there was a “lack of effective review of controls over financial ledgers” which meant there was “significant financial control weaknesses” and “poor accounting controls”.

Campaigners

It backs up what anti-privatisation campaigners have been arguing for years.

Outsourcing means that services are stripped from public control and put into the hands of unaccountable and unelected companies.

Barnet Unison Branch chair Helen Davies spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity, and describes the

programme of privatisation as “politically driven”.

Family services—children’s social work—was rated inadequate by Ofsted.

And Helen said that Ofsted’s report said there was “poor leadership at the top level, and it cited the commissioning council as a key reason for that poor leadership.”

“What happened was people were so focused on outsourcing everything and that political agenda, they weren’t bothered about the day to day running of services.

“That led to services trying to manage as best they could on their own.”

The “One Barnet” programme of outsourcing has cost £23.66 million.

Outsourcing doesn’t save money—it just puts it straight in the pockets of company bosses.

Barnet Council’s budget has been battered by this model—the cost of commissioning in Barnet has increased a staggering 356 percent since 2014.

It’s a political decision by council management to team up with the outsourcing bosses to take services out of public hands into the claws of the rich. All council services should be brought back immediately into public ownership.

On other pages...
Care workers march on the Tories
>>Page 6

‘Absolute chaos—it’s just jaw-droppingly astonishing’

COUNCIL WORKERS have been at the forefront of fighting privatisation plans—and they’ve borne the brunt of the attacks. Helen Davies said the legacy of Barnet’s reckless drive to outsourcing had led to “absolute chaos—its just jaw-droppingly astonishing”.

Workers who were transferred over from the council have retained their terms and conditions. But new starters are on lower pay, have inferior sick pay arrangements and they don’t have access to the local government pension scheme.

And these outsourced workers aren’t graded on local government pay scales—so they are forced to negotiate



individually for a pay rise, instead of collectively fighting for it.

Working conditions have deteriorated too, with the maze of different companies meaning it can be a difficult to access help when problems arise.

“We had a serious incident in one of our main buildings—a resident set themselves on

fire”, Helen explains.

“There was confusion about evacuation processes, and then it took two weeks for the council to acknowledge one of the fire alarms didn’t go off.”

“Health and safety is done by one wing of Capita, but facilities team who look after the buildings, that’s done by another wing.

“Then, you’ve got contractors who do the engineering of the fire alarms, and then you’ve got the strategic health and safety team from the council”, she said.

It’s one small example of how deregulation and privatisation risk lives in the pursuit of profit.

Professor Dexter Whitfield published with Barnet Unison the “One Barnet=Failure” report,

released in April. It looks at the “flawed commissioning model”.

It argues that “the main objective” of the tendering process was to “outsource irrespective of the performance of the in-house service”.

Whitfield argues that outsourcing was driven from the top by “neoliberal management” with not enough concern shown for how the changes would affect workers and residents.

“The council refused to recognise all the risks inherent” in Capita’s involvement, he says, and this led to “sweeping assumptions” about the type of services private companies could provide.



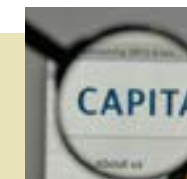
What is Capita?

CAPITA is an IT and software company, in both the public and private sector.

Central government and local authority services are heavily reliant on the company—it received £3.484 billion of public money in 2017 alone. But its future was plunged into doubt in January when it was forced to issue a profit warning.

This came just two weeks after fellow outsourcing giant Carillion folded, plunging thousands into unemployment and pensions uncertainty.

If Capita collapsed it would plunge vital services into chaos.



Failing the NHS

CAPITA is already linked to high-profile public sector failures, including a contract with NHS England.

It was signed up in 2015 to run a seven-year £700 million contract to supply a wide range of IT services to GP surgeries.

But it had serious problems from the outset.

Some 162,000 items of clinical correspondence weren’t delivered, there were delays to appointments and 87 women were told incorrectly they were no longer part of the cervical screening programme.

A National Audit Office report published in May said the firm’s failures could have “put patients at risk of serious harm.”



IN BRIEF

Oil workers trade shift rota for pay

SCOTTISH OFFSHORE oil rig workers have voted to accept a 15 percent pay rise as compensation for changes to shift patterns.

Unite union members at the Alwyn, Dunbar and Elgin rigs struck against a shift change that would see them work three weeks on the rigs, with three weeks' rest.

Rebuild activist base in PCS union

CIVIL SERVICE workers in the PCS union are to debate the next steps in their campaign against low pay at a series of regional briefings.

The PCS now says it is preparing for a strike ballot over pay next year.

The briefings are a chance to argue for reinvigorated activist networks that are key to winning a yes vote and to beat the 50 percent turnout threshold.

Looking for opportunities to strike in offices or sections can also boost the campaign.

Uber drivers protest over rights at work

THE IWGB union has called a precarious workers' demonstration in London on Tuesday 30 October.

Uber workers represented by the union are challenging the taxi firm over workplace rights in the court of appeal on the day.

Cable workers fight over paltry pay

WORKERS AT Prysmian electric cable company struck over pay last Wednesday.

The Unite union members were set to walk out this Wednesday—and again on the following two Wednesdays.

They want more than the bosses' 2 percent pay offer.

Isle of Man postal workers to ballot

POSTAL WORKERS on the Isle of Man have voted unanimously to ballot for industrial action.

Members of the CWU union working for the Isle of Man Post Office are fighting cuts to pay and pensions.

Another two wins over outsourcing

CLEANERS AT two London universities have been brought in house by management.

The decisions follow hard-fought campaigns led by cleaners with the support of students and other workers.

King's College London management said the change will happen "as soon as practicably and legally possible."

And at Goldsmiths university in south London 100 cleaners have been brought in house.

TRANSPORT



WORKERS PICKET at Arnos Grove in north London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Tube workers strike over unsafe staffing

by SARAH BATES

HUNDREDS OF RMT union members shut down a main transport route in London on Wednesday and Friday of last week.

Tube drivers on the Piccadilly line struck for 48 hours and then for five hours over a host of issues that they say are putting passenger safety at risk.

The timing of the two strikes meant the key route from Heathrow airport into central London was not able to recover.

Workers say low staffing levels mean they are being pressured into working more.

If delays happen while a driver is on duty, the service backs up—meaning they work longer shifts.

"There's no recovery built into the system", driver Martin Page told Socialist Worker.

And driver shortage is making it hard for workers to get time off.

"I'm struggling to book

annual leave", he added.

"I've got a christening in two months. Why should I miss an important family occasion?"

And he said shortages led to workers "not going home on time" and only receiving the minimum meal break of 30 minutes.

Drivers perform a safety critical role and are responsible for all passengers on board—up to 1,000 at peak times.

Behaviour

RMT branch chair Carlos Barros said management behaviour is a key issue.

"Management have been pulling drivers aside and talking to them about a 'non-agreed level of sickness'," he told Socialist Worker.

Carlos said these periods of sickness often followed a passenger collision.

"It affects drivers in a variety of ways," he said. "Sometime people just need time off to reflect, but some are unable to return to driving."

The Piccadilly line is

notorious among drivers for poor working conditions.

Strikers said that workers are transferring to other London Underground lines.

Carlos said that workers on the line have "been in constant industrial dispute for five or six years".

The action last week followed a suspended 48-hour strike in July—called off due to "significant progress" at Acas conciliation service talks.

But the RMT has accused Transport for London (TfL) bosses of reneging on the agreements reached in July.

And Carlos says negotiations broke down last month when TfL managers claimed they didn't know what the issues are—despite written agreements.

Strikers are determined to keep up action for passenger safety and dignity in the workplace.

"The ball's in their court," explains Carlos.

"But we're the RMT and we're not going to be bullied by anyone."

NORTHERN RAIL

Hundreds walk out against unsafe driver only trains

NORTHERN RAIL workers walked out on Saturday of last week in the latest action in their long-running fight for passenger safety.

And hundreds of RMT union members at Arriva Rail North—which owns Northern Rail—are also planning to walk out on 13 and 20 October.

They are fighting to stop the rollout of driver only operated (DOO) trains—unless bosses guarantee safety measures.

Strikers want assurances

that a second safety-critical member of staff will be on board DOO trains at all times.

There are 330 unstaffed stations on Northern routes.

Train guards play a particularly important role in ensuring everyone can travel safely and accessibly.

Bosses at Northern rail want at least 50 percent of services to run without a guard.

But the RMT says this will lead to a "cocktail of dangers" for passengers.

EUROSTAR

Safety strike suspended

THE RMT union called off a planned strike on the Eurostar international rail route at the eleventh hour.

Station staff and train guards were due to walk out for 48 hours over safety concerns on Monday of this week.

A rumoured deal between the RMT and bosses included "a monitoring committee" to deal with overcrowding issues.

Further details were yet to be announced as Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday.

SCHOOLS

Village School keeps up fight over academisation

NEU UNION members at The Village School in Brent, west London, are continuing their fight to stop the school becoming an academy.

Workers there have staged several strikes against a plan for the school to become part of a multi-academy trust with Woodfield academy.

A general meeting of Brent NEU unanimously passed a statement last week commending the struggle.

It welcomed Labour's pledge to stop all new academies.

"We note with regret how out of touch the Brent Labour Party chief whip Sandra Kabir is," it said.

"She pushed forward the academisation as chair of governors."

"There is still time for her to act and the proposal be withdrawn. We call on



'Out of touch' Labour chief whip Sandra Kabir

Brent Labour council to lobby the government and the department for education to halt the deeply flawed proposed Woodfield/Village multi-academy trust.

"Should this not happen, we urge Brent Council to call on any new Labour government to take The Village back into local authority control as a first priority."

BRADFORD

Academy bosses plan an unholy host of attacks

BRADFORD Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT) has announced a severe attack on workers with a plan to ditch all national and local agreements.

BDAT, which runs over 14 Schools in Bradford, could scrap workers' pay and conditions agreements contained in the "Burgundy Book".

This could mean:

- Rights to sick pay reduced in some circumstances
- Substantially reduced rates of redundancy pay for most teachers and some other staff
- Probationary periods for all staff changing roles, which could result in dismissal
- The possibility that future national pay rises will not be implemented.

The trust admits, "The proposed changes are intended to give BDAT the right to have the flexibility not to honour the pay rises."

Teachers and other school staff are angry and are starting to organise.

The school trade unions—ASCL, GMB, NAHT, NEU, NASUWT and Unison—are acting together and called a meeting for Thursday.

This attack is nationally significant. Academies' trusts have so far not dared to undermine the Burgundy Book in this way.

Bradford school teachers must fight this battle and every teacher across Britain must offer them solidarity to ensure they win. Otherwise other trusts will follow suit.

A Bradford teacher

FURTHER EDUCATION

Colleges fight for funding

UCU UNION members plan to protest on Wednesday 17 October during a week of action over further education funding.

The union is backing a lobby of parliament along with the NUS student union and bosses' Association of Colleges.

Workers in further and higher education are balloting for strikes over pay following years of real terms pay cuts.

They also want action to close the gender pay gap.

The ballots affect UCU members in 110 universities and 147 colleges. They end on 19 October. UCU members are also preparing for a national

conference on Saturday 13 October on building the fight to defend education.

It is organised by the UCU Left, UCUTransformed, Branch Solidarity Network and OurUCU.

■ LEWISHAM Southwark College workers struck over pay on Thursday and Friday of last week. Their UCU union said more strikes could follow if bosses refuse to budge.

Workers have been offered just one pay rise—of 1 percent—in five years.

It is the only London college not to pay the London weighting allowance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Traffic wardens say no waiting for justice

by TOMÁS TENGELY-EVANS

TRAFFIC WARDENS in north London are taking the fight for higher pay to outsourcing giant NSL.

Camden Unison union members began a five-day strike on Monday to increase their pay to £11.15 an hour.

Jacob told Socialist Worker, "We've got a really bad management who punish us for minor things."

"We bring in all this money, but they don't want to pay us properly."

"I've not been on strike before. But I thought, 'You know what, I do deserve to have more money'."

Deal

NSL pays workers £10.20 an hour. This is part of a three-year deal agreed after previous strikes in 2015.

Bosses accepted they had to pay workers above the London Living Wage, which stood at £9.75 an hour.

The London Living Wage has since gone up to £10.20 an hour—but bosses are refusing to stump up more.

Jonathon, another striker, told Socialist Worker, "It's really expensive to live in London and it's getting harder. Everything is going up—apart from our pay."

"We make a lot of money for the company but they do



ON THE picket line at Regis Road

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

not want to give us anything."

Workers voted by nine to one for strikes in a ballot.

The fight for higher pay is at the centre of the traffic warden's dispute, but they are also angry about a host of other issues.

Jonathon said workers wanted to put a stop to "management bullying and harassment".

And the predominantly black workers frequently face verbal abuse and sometimes physical attacks at work.

On the picket line Terrance

explained that management didn't provide traffic wardens with appropriate uniforms.

He added, "What we want is some dignity at work."

Support for the strike has come from other Unison members at the council and trade unionists across Camden.

Workers at the Guildford Street site were visited by workers from the nearby UCH hospital and from UCL university.

Unison general secretary Dave Prentis joined a

couple of the picket lines. He pledged, "We won't leave you by yourself."

The traffic wardens are determined to fight and win.

The Unison national leadership must throw its full political and financial weight behind the dispute.

And every trade unionist, particularly at Camden council, should build solidarity with the traffic wardens and join their picket lines.

Workers' names have been changed. Messages of support to unison@camden.gov.uk

HOUSING

No to demolition without the tenants' permission

HOUSING campaigners and residents in London are to protest against plans from mayor Sadiq Khan to deny them a vote on regeneration plans that affect their estates.

The rally is set to take place on 3 November at City Hall.

Thirty six estates have been denied a ballot because the deals had been pushed through before the mayor's office introduced a policy which makes votes a requirement.

Some 31,000 residents on 118 estates could be affected over the next decade.

Nearly 8,000 homes will be lost, and the total could be many more.

In the weeks after the rally, campaigners from some of the affected estates are set to

hold a daily vigil at City Hall demanding to meet Sadiq Khan.

They want a guaranteed ballot on demolitions, with no conditions.

The protest has been called by campaigns including Homes for All, the Radical Housing Network and Defend Council Housing.

Join the protest on Saturday 3 November at 12 noon, Jubilee Gardens, 122 Belvedere Road, South Bank, near to Tower Bridge

HOUSING campaigners have called a national conference to debate the way forward for the housing movement. It is set to take place at the NEU union headquarters in central London on 8 December.

DRIVERS

STRIKES ARE planned over increased Saturday working for 18 transport drivers at AB Agriculture in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

The Unite union says its members at the animal feed firm are angry at the imposition of increased weekend working from one Saturday every four weeks to two in four—with no pay rise.

Workers will meet later this month to plan for industrial action.

Drivers voted by 62 percent for strikes and by 87 percent for action short of strike.

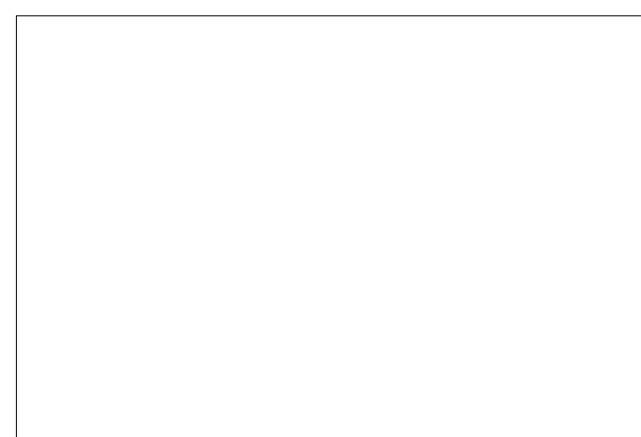
Unite regional officer Steve Harley said, "The imposition is an attack on our members' work-life balance and also an erosion of continuous rest breaks, which are essential for the safety of all road users."

"Working days can already exceed 12 hours a day."

"Therefore, weekends are essential to those who want time to be with their families."

"Should the industrial action go ahead, we predict that it will directly impact on the availability of poultry and pig feed to business customers."

SCHOOL MEALS STAFF



Meals staff and teaching assistants united

BIRMINGHAM

Carers keep up the fight

BIRMINGHAM HOME care workers are continuing their nine-month battle to beat off attacks on their jobs and the service.

They led the march to the Tory conference in the city last weekend (see page 5).

Rahab, a Unison union member, told Socialist Worker, "It's very hard going on strike, but we are going to fight no matter how long it takes."

"We'll be on strike again next week."

"We've already had a lot of support from people for our strike," she added.

"People came all the way from Oxfordshire for the demonstration we had last week."

Rahab explained how the Labour-run council's plans

would devastate home carers' lives. "The council want to cut our hours," she said. "It would affect the whole of our lives and make it harder for us, we can't even put food on the table."

Over 270 Unison union members are fighting an onslaught of attacks from Birmingham City Council, which is Labour-run.

The council is trying to force through a redundancy programme as well as pushing the low-paid workers—who are mostly women—onto part time hours.

This will just mean more care packages are tendered out to the private sector.

Send messages of support to caroline.johnson@birminghamunison.co.uk

KIRKLEES

Can you trust this council?

KIRKLEES COUNCIL in West Yorkshire has again conceded to workers' demands after they threatened to hold an indefinite strike.

A meeting of union joint secretaries took place on Wednesday of last week. Two days later members met to accept the latest offer from the employers.

However, the mood of the workers was sober because this was the third time that they have accepted an offer from the employers.

It is hoped that the council will implement this agreement.

But if not the action will be back on. Nick Ruff, Kirklees Unison branch chair (pc)

TOWER HAMLETS

Mayor shuts nurseries

PARENTS PICKETED a Tower Hamlets council meeting in east London on Wednesday of last week as Labour mayor John Biggs agreed to close council-run nurseries.

The cuts affect the Overland nurseries in Bow for children with conditions such as deafness and autism.

The Mary Sambrook nursery in Shadwell has already closed and the John Smith nursery in Stepney is likely to shut in December.

Biggs claimed he was "unhappy" at the closures but said Tory cuts meant having to make "difficult choices".

Parents have vowed to fight on. Campaigners hope that a meeting of the council's scrutiny committee this week will reverse the decision.

Ready for an all-out strike

CHANTS OF "Dinner ladies here to stay" rang out on the picket line at Ladywood primary school in Grimethorpe last week.

Management at the school in South Yorkshire are threatening to sack all nine dinner ladies at Christmas.

They also want teaching assistants to cover dinner duties.

There have been six days of strikes with teaching assistants and dinner ladies out in unity.

They have had great support from the local community with very many signing a petition calling for management to back down.

Talks have been arranged. If these fail the dinner ladies were set to start an indefinite strike from Thursday of this week—with teaching assistants working to rule.

George Arthur

Messages of support to branchoffice@unisonbarnsleylg.org

NAZI ROBINSON GOONS MARCH

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

A BAYING crowd of Nazis gathered outside the Old Bailey in central London to greet their fuhrer Tommy Robinson last Thursday.

Chants of, “Free Tommy” and, “Whose streets? Our streets” rang out from the mob, which had swelled to over 300 by the time he walked into the court.

Every fascist and racist was hoping to see Robinson freed after his retrial on contempt of court and other charges.

But the retrial has now been adjourned until 23 October to give lawyers more time to make written submissions of their legal arguments. The judge will then decide whether to have a full hearing of the case.

Robinson remains free on bail. He walked to court alongside Kevin Carroll—his cousin who he co-founded the fascist English Defence League (EDL) with in 2009.

Organisers and stewards had been trying to keep the crowd on its best behaviour, but violence broke out. Some of the mob attacked journalists



ROBINSON'S SUPPORTERS outside the Old Bailey last Thursday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

while Robinson was speaking outside the court.

And after Robinson went inside, the fascists shoved their way into the middle of the road and tried to attack anti-racists. Around

30 people joined a counter-protest organised by Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism (UAF).

All the different groups of the British far right were outside the court hoping to

gain from the “Free Tommy” movement. It included open Nazis—some of whom did Hitler salutes—and supporters of the fascist rump of the EDL. Alan Lake, the rich far right banker who

funded the EDL, also made an appearance.

One of the flags in the crowd was from white supremacist Generation Identity, a group of young people that looks to Donald

Trump and the US alt right.

A significant section of the crowd included supporters of the racist Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA) street movement.

They have called a march in London on 13 October, hoping to place themselves in the leadership of the “Free Tommy” movement.

There were flags of the racist populist Ukip party in the crowd. And it included young members of the party, who have previously been on the thousands-strong “Free Tommy” rallies in London.

This mix in the crowd confirmed the growing links between the Nazis, racist populists and traditional conservative forces. Their rise is being fuelled by the racism pushed by politicians and the press against Muslims, migrants and refugees.

SUTR and UAF have called a counter-protest against the DFLA on 13 October and a national demonstration against racism and fascism on 17 November.

It is backed by many unions and Labour MPs.

For details go to www.standuptoracism.org

RIGHT TO PROTEST

Anti-deportation activists face jail, and anti-fracking protesters locked up

A GROUP of anti-deportation activists face lengthy jail terms—including the possibility of life behind bars—as they went on trial on Monday.

The 15 defendants tried to block the take-off of a charter plane at Stansted Airport in Essex in March last year.

There were 57 migrants, who the British government deemed “illegal”, being sent back to Nigeria and Ghana on the jet.

And there was double that number of security guards on board.

The protest took place in an aircraft parking bay



Rich Loizou, Richard Roberts and Simon Roscoe Blevins

far away from the runways and the main terminal.

The activists dressed in bright pink to ensure they were visible.

None were armed or posed a danger to others.

But the Crown Prosecution Service brought charges against them using the Aviation and Maritime Security Act.

This is a piece of terrorism legislation that has never been used against political protest before.

The Act allows for lengthy sentences, including life imprisonment. The

trial is expected to last for up to six weeks.

Protests against mass deportations are not the only type that the Tories are worried about.

Three anti-fracking activists were given lengthy jail sentences last week.

Simon Roscoe-Blevins and Richard Roberts were sentenced to 16 months in prison, while Richard Loizou was sentenced to 15 months.

The men climbed on top of lorries being used at the Preston New Road fracking site near Blackpool in Lancashire.

They stayed peacefully

on the vehicles for four days last July.

They were prosecuted under public nuisance—an offence that has no sentencing guidelines and little legal precedent.

The historic move is a blow for the movement that has resisted the fracking industry.

The government hopes that ever-harsher sentences will deter us. But escalating protests and solidarity must be our answer to their clampdown.

Protest in solidarity with the anti-fracking activists. Saturday 6 October 1.30 pm, HMP Preston, PR1 5AP

How an attack on a march led to rebellion >>Pages 14&15

Derry in revolt

1968



How cost-cutting hit safety measures designed to save lives >>Page 7

Indonesian tsunami: an avoidable tragedy



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AS THE SNP STALLS ON INDYREF2...

BREAK UP BRITISH STATE

A KEY organiser of the independence march in Edinburgh this Saturday has called on the Scottish National Party (SNP) to use its mandate to demand a second independence referendum.

All Under One Banner's (AUOB) series of marches for independence in the last five months has seen more than 100,000 people on the streets.

All Under One Banner's

Neil Mackay told Socialist Worker, "The SNP needs to use the mandate—now is the time."

Edinburgh could be the biggest march yet.

It comes ahead of an SNP conference where a long-promised "precise timetable" for a second independence vote was supposed to be announced.

Leaders of the party made clear in recent weeks

>>Page 2

MARCH FOR INDEPENDENCE—EDINBURGH
SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER JOHNSTONE TERRACE 1PM
END LONDON RULE

HEALTH

Blood money—victims speak out on a scandal

VICTIMS ARE calling for truth and justice as an inquiry into the Infected Blood Scandal begins.

Some 2,800 people in Britain have died after being given tainted blood or blood products. Glenn is one of them. "We must get to the truth," he said. "No stone must be left unturned."

>>Pages 10&11

TORY CONFERENCE

Car-crash Tories want more cuts and racism

THE TORIES have unveiled a new war on migrants in a desperate bid to save their car-crash government.

Home secretary Sajid Javid wants to make it harder for some migrants to come to Britain.

Meanwhile chancellor Philip Hammond (pictured) pledged more austerity.

>>Pages 4&5

WALKOUT

Staff at London pub stage wildcat strike over hours

WORKERS AT a south London pub were on their third day of a wildcat strike as Socialist Worker went to press.

They want an end to zero hours contracts, the reinstatement of four workers and union recognition.

They've won much support.

>>Page 3

ANTI-RACISM

Build Stand Up To Racism Scotland

AS THE far right grows in Britain and across Europe, Scotland needs a stronger anti-racist movement. Stand Up To Racism Scotland is winning support from politicians, trade unionists and campaigners.

A statement calling for support for initiatives including a major demonstration in London on 17 November, opposition to former English Defence League leader Tommy Robinson, and an international conference on 20 October has been launched. It has been signed by SNP MP Chris Stephens, Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard, Unison union Scottish secretary Mike Kirby and many others.



●Black History Month lecture

by Talat Ahmed, Stand Up To Racism Scotland convenor. Fri 5 Oct 5.30-7pm, STUC building, 333 Woodlands Rd, Glasgow

●Syrian Voices—The Welcoming

Short film screening followed by discussion with the filmmakers. Wed 10 Oct 7-8.30pm, Medical School, Teviot Place, University of Edinburgh

●Leith stands up to racism—refugees and migrants welcome!

Sat 27 Oct 11am-1pm Balfour St, Edinburgh, EH6. bit.ly/2R82HiF

●Love Music Hate Racism gig

Sun 14 Oct 8pm til late, Old Hairdressers, Renfield Lane, Glasgow G2 5AR

●STUC St Andrews Day anti-racism march and rally

Sat 24 Nov, Glasgow 10.30am-1.30pm bit.ly/2QgSiQr

No justice for Sheku Bayoh

THE TRAGIC death of Sheku Ahmed Tejan Bayoh while in police custody in Kirkcaldy on 3 May 2015 has left his family fighting for justice and for the prosecution of those responsible.

A story that the Lord Advocate has decided not to prosecute anyone was leaked to Sunday newspapers.

If this is true it is a terrible blow to the long, hard fought campaign.

The family of Sheku Bayoh were due to meet the Lord Advocate on Wednesday of this week. Supporters planned to gather outside to show their solidarity with the family.

Time to get organised to break up the British state

>>>continued from page 1

that wouldn't happen. Instead an SNP "day of action" was organised last weekend.

This should be a warning to independence supporters.

Brexit has fired up arguments for another independence referendum since the divergence in votes north and south of the border in the 2016 European Union (EU) referendum.

One recent poll even suggested support for independence could rise after Brexit.

Yet Scotland's 62 percent Remain vote masks underlying opposition to the EU, not least in the independence movement.

At the same time as voting Remain, Scots were also 66 percent "Eurosceptic", according to data from the British and Scottish social attitudes surveys.

This poses a problem for SNP leaders who want to link independence to EU membership.

Remain

They have spent more of the last two years arguing to remain in the EU than to leave Britain. They have joined the chorus of pro-market politicians trying to force a second EU vote on people.

Nicola Sturgeon has even engaged in the kind of rhetoric she would have rightly criticised as "Project Fear" in 2014.

Last month she said that Brexit is like "jumping off a cliff with a blindfold on and having no idea where the landing place is".

Neil argued, "Another EU referendum would be highly damaging for the independence movement."

"It just helps solidify the British state, and why would we want to

MARCHING FOR independence in Dumfries earlier this year

do that? We should break up the British state.

"We need to have indyref2 in the next year."

In March last year Sturgeon said a second independence referendum should be held by spring 2019.

A Holyrood vote that month backed her timetable.

Within two months the SNP general election manifesto said it should be "at the end of the Brexit

process, when the final terms of the deal are known"—a formulation that is open to interpretation.

Is that after 29 March 2019—the official exit date?

Is it after the "transition period" is over, 21 months later?

Or even after a suggested second transition period ends in 2023?

We shouldn't let the Tories at Westminster decide when the vote is.

People in Scotland have the right to decide and have given a clear mandate to the SNP—Sturgeon's so called "triple lock".

As Neil said, "The Tories are weak and divided. It's now or never."

Neil Mackay is speaking at Marxism in Scotland on Saturday 3 November, for more details go to bit.ly/2vGU5GH

Labour scores own goal

AFTER LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn said he was "not ruling out" a Labour government agreeing to a second independence referendum you might think Richard Leonard had been thrown a lifeline.

But the Scottish Labour leader spurned an opportunity to break down a barrier between his party and many of its former voters in Scotland.

Instead of putting clear distance between Labour and the Tories on this question Leonard argued that Labour should rule it out in its manifesto.

If it won the next general election that would give Corbyn "a mandate to oppose a second referendum".

In effect he put Scots' right to decide in second place to a manifesto that could struggle to receive the backing of a majority of voters in Scotland. Some 170,000 people who voted SNP in 2015 switched to back Corbyn last year.

But Leonard's comments—if there was to be a snap election in the coming months—make it harder for him to increase that tally.



Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard

We say no more nukes here

HUNDREDS OF people gathered at the gates of Trident's nuclear base on the Clyde late last month to urge governments around the world to ban nuclear weapons.

The protest came at the same time as two revealing reports.

There is overwhelming opposition in Scotland to nuclear weapons.

Despite this local government pension funds, universities, and financial institutions are investing billions of pounds in their production, according to a new divestment report.

Nine local government pension funds hold shares worth nearly £300 million across 14 nuclear weapons companies. The report found that universities in Scotland also hold shares, with the University of Glasgow investing a

staggering £1.6 million across 11 nuclear weapons companies.

The British American Security Information Council also released a new report highlighting the fact that the programme to renew the Trident system would cost over £110 billion.

This far outstrips the Ministry of Defence's allocated budget of £41 billion that was deemed "not fit for purpose" by National Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee assessments this year.

Nuclear weapons are an obscene waste of money that suck up vital funds that would be much better spent on our public services.

Trident should be scrapped altogether.

Read more on the guide to nuclear weapons divestment in Scotland at nukedivestmentscotland.org

SCHOOLS & COUNCILS ARE SET FOR ACTION

by CHARLOTTE AHMED

THOUSANDS OF workers in Glasgow council are preparing for strikes over equal pay.

Women workers have been fighting for justice for a decade. First it was against a Labour-run council and, for the last year, one led by the Scottish National Party (SNP).

After huge votes for strikes by workers in the Unison and GMB unions, action is expected towards the end of this month.

Some 13,000 women are rightly demanding payment for years of discrimination and inequality when they were paid less than men in similar roles.

Unison Glasgow City Council branch said last week, "Our 5,000 members will now move towards strike action, and we will co-ordinate that action with our sisters and brothers in the GMB trade union."

"We have given the council ten months to make progress on addressing the historical discrimination suffered by thousands of workers across the council. However the



FIGHTING FOR equal pay in Glasgow council

council has agreed nothing and offered nothing.

"All we have had are meetings about meetings, talks about talks and more court hearings. It's time for some action."

Meanwhile Nicola

Sturgeon's "to do" list is not short of other serious issues.

There is widespread opposition to the dogmatic imposition of standardised testing of P1 pupils. The further education sector is in financial crisis due to chronic

underfunding. Universities are involved in swingeing cuts and attacks on lecturers' pay and pensions (see below). And school teachers are campaigning for a 10 percent pay increase.

In real terms, teachers' pay

has fallen by 20 percent in ten years. There is a recruitment crisis all over Scotland.

Workload has increased and the rushed implementation of new courses has created chaos and demoralisation. The new curriculum

in primary and secondary schools was full of potential but was implemented in a time of austerity.

Valuing teachers is also about valuing education and the pupils in the system. You can't have a first class system with second class pay and conditions. It will take a fight to win a 10 percent rise.

In East Dunbartonshire, days of strike action by council workers and the threat of more won a victory and increased recruitment to the union.

As teachers build their own campaign with street stalls, campaign mugs, T-shirts, meetings and posters it is increasingly obvious that the SNP government will not fund a decent pay rise for teachers unless they are forced to.

This will require a huge turnout in any ballot for strike action and a convincing majority for action. We have to build for this now.

The EIS is holding a march to support the pay claim on Saturday 27 October in Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow, at 11am with a rally in George Square. Come along and support your teachers and schools

FURTHER EDUCATION

Lecturers throw out bosses' pay offer and should now prepare for action

by DONNY GLUCKSTEIN

FURTHER Education lecturers in Scotland have voted by 90 percent, on a 60 percent turnout, to reject management's pay offer in an indicative ballot.

This follows on from a strike victory last year which brought equal pay for all lecturers in Scotland to the level of the highest paid college.

The lecturers' ballot is a rejection of falling living standards.

The management side produced a very



EIS Fela members on the march

complicated offer designed to divide and confuse.

It amounted in the end to just 2.5 percent in total for three years (2016-19), or less than one percent per year.

With inflation now at least 2.7 percent a year, to have accepted that offer would have meant agreeing to a pay cut. We should not accept that our pay packets should shrink in real terms.

Our managements are always pleading poverty and tight government spending. But principals and senior managers have had massive pay hikes.

It is true the Scottish government spends too little on further education, which provides a vital service for young people.

But when lecturers stand firm the government has had to find the money necessary.

The way the ballot was won has lessons for trade unionists. Now that the Tory anti-union legislation, with its 50 percent turnout threshold, is in place ballots need to be carefully organised and built for.

Detailed work on the ground is the key to success. College activists were armed with masses

of publicity material.

Membership lists were brought up to date and meetings were held across the country.

One-to-one conversations were had in staffroom after staffroom.

After the ballot result EIS general secretary Larry Flanagan said, "We hope that this clear rejection by lecturers will cause management to think again and return with an improved offer."

If there isn't an offer to protect and enhance pay the union should move to a full strike ballot—and action.